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METRONEWS

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

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Dump Trump

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Anti-Muslim talk spurs call to change T.O. tower's name

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Donald Trump is a "fascist" and his name has no place "in the heart of the downtown of Canada's most diverse and accepting city," a Toronto city councillor charged Tuesday.

"I believe the owners of Toronto's Trump Tower should change its name," Coun. Josh Matlow tweeted. "I'm writing to the owners of the Trump Tower today to make this request."

Matlow's tweet took off online and trended in Toronto Tuesday afternoon. The words "shame" could also be spotted on the sidewalk outside the tower, painted in chalk by local street artist Victor Fraser.

"Trump's disgusting, he's shameful, he's an idiot. I mean he frustrates my mother — he frustrates half the planet," Fraser said.

Trump's comments in his campaign for the Republican nomination that Muslims should be banned from entering the U.S. and his earlier association of Mexicans with criminals and rapists were bigoted and hateful, said Matlow.

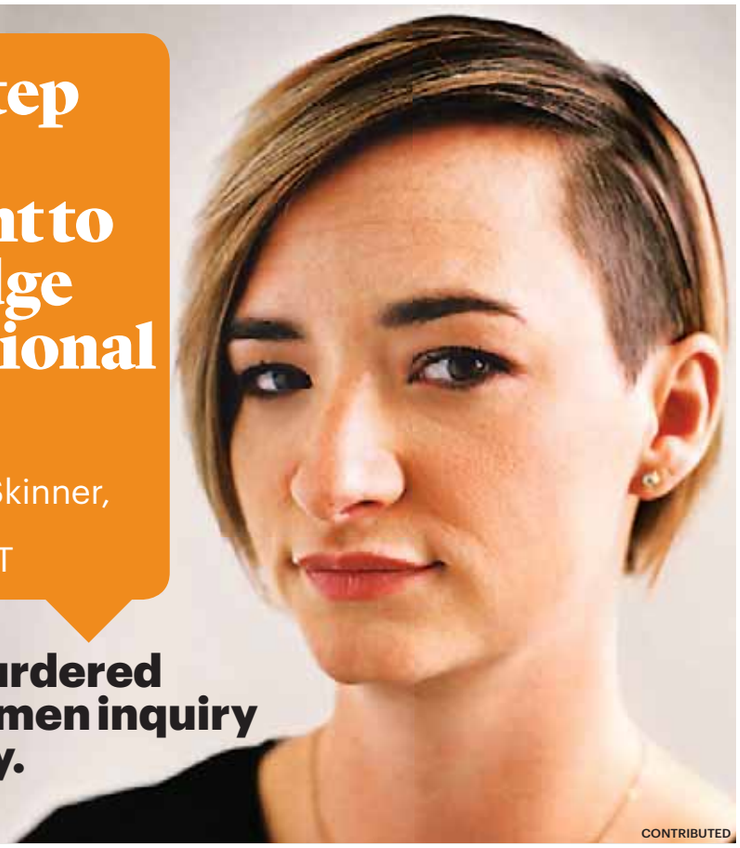
A spokesman for the owners of the Toronto tower, David Eisenstadt, told Metro there is a legal agreement in place preventing a name change.

"Donald Trump's opinions as a private citizen in no way reflect the position of the company's views or those of its other investors and owners," he said in a statement on behalf of the owners.

More coverage, page 12

'The first step was for the government to acknowledge this is a national tragedy.'

— Promise Holmes Skinner, Aboriginal program co-ordinator at U of T



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Missing and murdered Indigenous women inquiry to begin. Finally.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

MARCH FORWARD 'LIKE A TERMINATOR' ON CLIMATE CHANGE
CANADA

TRANSIT

Twitter needed for wi-fi

The TTC may have expanded its free Wi-Fi offering this month to another four stations. But the number of riders who can access it has been temporarily confined to those with Twitter accounts.

The social media company has a sponsorship agreement with BAI Canada, the TTC's internet provider, for the month of December making Internet access on the subway conditional on logging on to Twitter.

Riders who don't have an account and want to text on the TTC would have to open one before heading underground. Those who already have one will automatically connect to the TConnect service on the TTC and remain connected for 12 hours on Wi-Fi accessible stations.

The transit sponsorship agreement is a first for Twitter, said spokesman Cameron Gordon.

"Anything in terms of privacy from our side is no different than if you were signing up for a Twitter account above ground," said Gordon, adding that it takes about 45 seconds to create a Twitter account. "Our hope is that some people using Wi-Fi in the subway will stick around and check out Twitter while they're on it. It is looking to expose Twitter to more people," he said.

Twitter's terms and conditions apply while you're using it.

Once you're on the system, BAI, which has a 20-year, $25-million contract to provide Internet on the TTC, has no access to your Twitter information, said BAI Canada chief operating officer Ken Ranger. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Some residents feel this mural, located beneath an overpass on **Lawrence Avenue West,** is a problem, but only on its west side. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

The mural they call 'scary'

MURAL

Piece is a tool for change, an 'ode to Mother Earth': Artist

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

More than 2,000 people have signed a petition to save a community mural on Lawrence Avenue West that's been called "gloomy" and "scary" by some local residents.

The recently completed mural by three artists from the Essencia Art Collective consists mostly of fantastic nature scenes.

"It's an ode to Mother Earth, to all of Earth's beautiful creatures and magical realism," said Fiya Bruxa, co-designer of the mural. Bruxa said it's meant to convey a warning about climate change and environmental destruction.

Over the course of a month this fall, Bruxa and two other artists, Shalak Attack and Bruno Smoky, painted forest animals, fantasy creatures, and a wizard on the concrete walls of a rail underpass that divides the wards of councillors Frank Di Giorgio and Josh Colle.

Di Giorgio said the half of the painting in his ward lacks the lustre of the rest of the piece.

"The east side of the mural seems to be fairly bright and well accepted. The west side is a little more gloomy and has some scary images on it, and is not as well accepted," Di Giorgio said.

In particular, an image of a person wearing a gas mask and another creature with an animal skull for a head stand out as particularly frightening, he said.

"On public space I think, for myself, it should be a little more picturesque. I don't think you take underpasses as a place where you try to communicate artistic messages, you're trying to beautify things."

Di Giorgio held a community meeting with the artists last night in an effort to iron out some of the issues.

"We believe that art is a tool for social change and community empowerment," said Bruxa.

"Without certain elements you lose the storyline. You can't judge something that's beautiful until you juxtapose it with what you would find perhaps not as pleasing."

Imagery explained

"It's representative of a deer skull. It tells the story of the animals who have passed away and who have been murdered, or poisoned, or deceased due to the mining industry and the fossil fuel dependent generation." — Fiya Bruxa

"This character represents magic and wisdom. It's a reflection of the next generation to come, the passing down of wisdom." — Fiya Bruxa

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The *surprising poetic* tweets of the Toronto Police Service

SOCIAL MEDIA

Constable's direct form draws interest

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

Social media users are finding poetry in an unexpected place — the official Twitter account of the Toronto Police operations centre.

Const. David Hopkinson, who signs his tweets on the shared feed "^dh," eschews the style of his fellow officers by writing in short, bullet-point sentences.

The result, sometimes, is a sort of free-form public service haiku.

From Monday night: "FIRE: Yonge St + Steeles Av, Someone lit a sweater on fire, Near gas station, On sidewalk, Police/Fire en route ^dh"

Const. David Hopkinson
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

And on Dec. 7: "FIRE: Eglinton Av + Gervais Dr -Fire advises it's just steam -No fire -Crews clearing ^dh"

Reached by phone, Hopkinson downplayed his online appeal. "I thought it was sarcasm," he said. "People chirp at the police all the time, they're quite critical. ... I'm flattered that people like my style, but I was just trying to convey a message."

Hopkinson said some of his fellow officers were initially skeptical of the layout of his tweets when he started last September, but eventually he won them over.

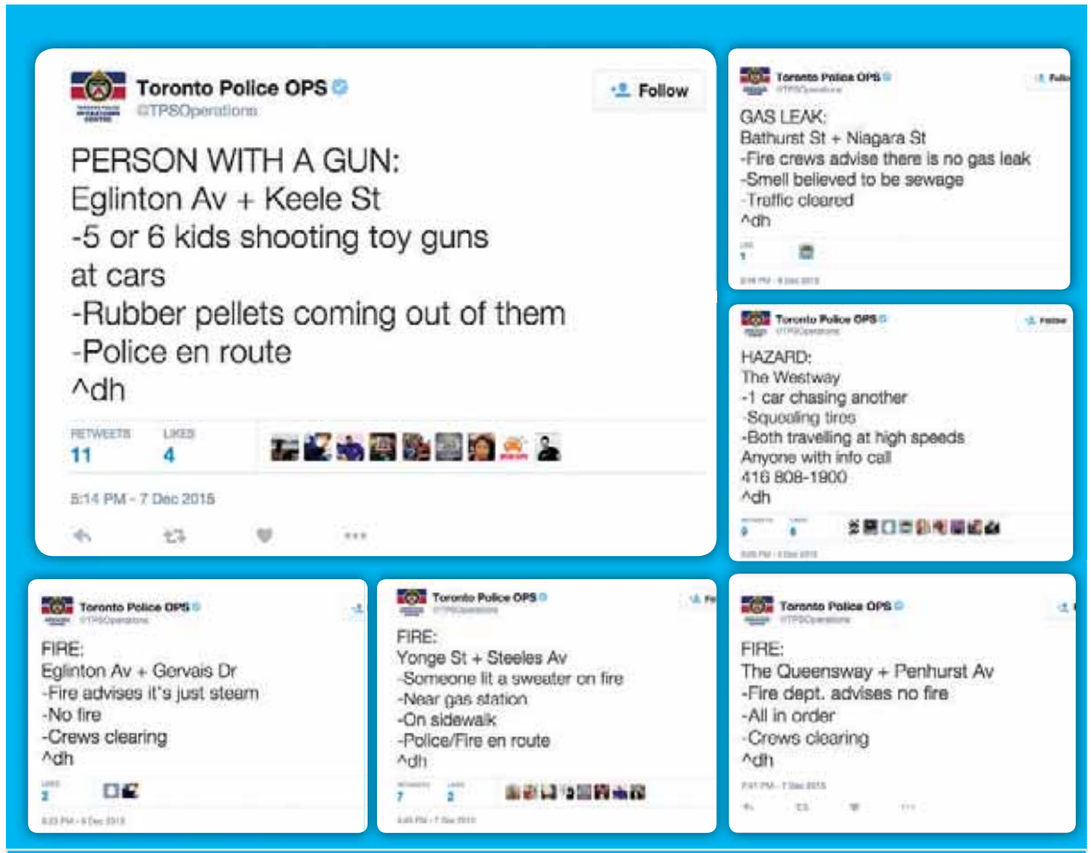
Though he denies his tweets are prose, Hopkinson, an avid reader, cites a diverse range of influences.

"Everybody looks at poetry differently. You can look at Dr. Seuss or you can look at the Iliad, which are two completely different things, but both are considered poetry. I'm sort of a fan of both," he said.

Toronto Police have slowly encrypted their radio communications over the last few years, making Twitter accounts like @TPSOperations an important resource for anyone tracking the activities of police.

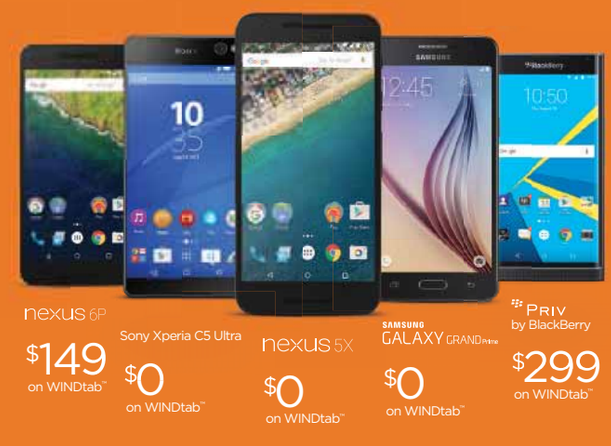
Hopkinson said his primary obligation is to serve the public.

"I'm trying to convey information ... it's about what's happening in the city."



A selection of tweets penned by **Const. David Hopkinson** TWITTER

HAVE YOUR SAY **ARE YOU A FAN?** Tweet us @metronewscanada and let us know your favourite TPS tweet



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66% Spike In Recent Foreclosures Plus Aging Baby Boomers Downsizing Creating Discounted Property Frenzy In U.S.

New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping $5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

Foreclosures, Flips & Flowing Money

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Yet individual investors are asking, "Can I still find good deals in U.S. property?" The answer is an emphatic YES.

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An artist's rendering of the upcoming Under Gardiner project, a stretch of land set to be converted into an urban park thanks to a generous philanthropic donation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Public spaces need charity: Designer

URBAN LIVING

Gift from wealthy helping create Under Gardiner park

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

Philanthropists may hold the key to unlocking the potential of Toronto's parks and public spaces, a prominent Toronto urban designer says.

Ken Greenberg, who helped design the park space planned under the Gardiner Expressway, thinks parks and other outdoor spaces need more love from the city's benefactors.

"Traditionally, philanthropy in the city has been around things like cultural institutions, university faculties, medical facilities, major organizations like the United Way, and so on," he said.

"What we're realizing in a city that's growing as quickly as we are, one of the real strains we're feeling is a lack of public space."

The Under Gardiner project Greenberg helped conceive was funded with a $25-million gift from Judy and Wil Matthews. He hopes others will now consider similar donations.

"(Philanthropy) enables us to do special things that would never make it onto the list," he said.

He said the Toronto ravines, hydro corridors and disused rail lines are some of the city's "hidden treasures" that could benefit from acts of generosity.

Waterfront Toronto, the agency tasked with revitalizing the city's downtown lakeshore, is in the midst of changing its structure to accept donations.

Citizens can donate money to causes like the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation and Trees across Toronto. Mayor John Tory has indicated he'd like the city to look at ways to better facilitate philanthropy.

> In a city as diverse and heterogeneous as ours, we really need places where we interact in public, where we get to know each other.
> Ken Greenberg

"Of all the things one can do that would have the greatest impact and a legacy and even small gestures make an enormous difference to people's lives," Greenberg said.

TRANSPORTATION

Cabbies to strike

Potentially thousands of cab drivers could refuse service and take to the streets Wednesday in a massive protest planned against UberX.

Sajid Mughal, president of the iTaxiWorkers Association, said as many as 2,000 cab drivers may join in the all-day protest.

The plans call for drivers to refuse fares from 7:30 a.m. until 7 p.m.

There is also a co-ordinated procession planned, starting from four points across the city, that will converge on downtown and encircle city hall and Queen's Park throughout the day.

After "small demonstrations here and there," Mughal said, the drivers are frustrated.

"Now is the time we should be loud and clear," he said.

Wheel-Trans service will not be disrupted, he assured.

"The plan is tomorrow not to disrupt the public or the traffic, try to be as organized as possible," he said.

Drivers do not have a long list of demands for the demonstration.

"Our list is very short and very clear: that we want fairness. We want the enforcement of the bylaws that (the) city passed on Sept. 30," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROADS

Woman dies in Brampton collision

A 48-year-old woman has died in hospital following a collision in Brampton Monday evening.

According to Peel Regional Police, the incident happened at a coin car wash near Airport Road and Williams Parkway around 8:30 p.m.

The driver remained at the scene.

According to police, the collision is being treated as an accident. No charges have been laid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Non-profit giving artists a break on housing costs

HOUSING

Initiative aims to deter downtown exodus

As a full-time artist, goldsmith and jewelry designer, Hannah Cowan isn't exactly starving.

But it can be tough.

"It's always a struggle," said the 33-year-old, while putting the finishing touches on a white-gold wedding band.

Cowan moonlights as a spin instructor but otherwise makes all her income from her art.

"Business can be really great for a couple months and then just nothing," she said.

But even on her limited income, Cowan can afford an airy 550-square-foot, open-concept loft on Queen Street West.

She pays 80 per cent of the average market rent for Toronto, as determined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation — in the $800-a-month range — for one of 28 units owned by non-profit Artscape and rented to artists and art professionals at the Triangle Lofts.

Cowan calls it "one of the best things that's happened to (her)."

The loft building is one of five projects Artscape has across the city to house artists who otherwise couldn't cope with climbing downtown rents.

The model differs from site to site. Artscape West Queen West provides 12 rent-geared-to-income artist live/work units; Wychwood Barns, 22.

At both locations, applicants must qualify for social housing through the city's centralized waiting list.

Hannah Cowan, a goldsmith and jewelry designer, lives in the Artscape Triangle Lofts, an affordable housing project for artists in Toronto. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> We know that artists are also fundamental instigators of place, of quality of life and bring much more than just a pretty painting on the wall.
>
> Liz Kohn, Artscape

A further 80 units owned by the city and operated by Artscape will be available within the Aquavista condo planned for Toronto's waterfront, at 80 per cent of the average market rents.

The idea is also gathering steam in the U.S. in cities such as Washington, D.C., and Seattle, where it has drawn controversy over offering artists the low rents everyone is looking for in big cities, and raising questions about what is art and who is an artist.

Liz Kohn, a spokesperson from Artscape, said a peer evaluation process looks at criteria such as an applicant's education and history of presenting work, to determine if they qualify.

"So they're not looking at a painting or a play or anything like that, they're looking at their CV," said Kohn.

Providing affordable housing, she said, keeps artists from having to flee cities in search of lower rents.

"We know that artists are also fundamental instigators of place, of quality of life, of conversations around acceptance and well-being, and bring much more than just a pretty painting on the wall," she added.

Kohn said the number of people on Artscape's waiting list for units fluctuates, but "is huge."

"We're only actually delivering on a fraction of the need."

Gil Hardy, a spokesperson from the city's affordable housing office, said the city's contribution to artist housing differs from model to model, from direct funding per unit to waiving of property taxes or developer's charges.

In the rent-geared-to-income units the city makes up the difference between what the renter pays and the actual rent, which differs based on their income. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHARITY

Choir group raising money to sponsor Syrians

Some of the singers at one of **Choir! Choir! Choir!'s events** at Lee's Palace. COURTESY JOSEPH FUDA

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A drop-in choir from Toronto is singing its way to sponsoring a Syrian refugee family.

Members of Choir! Choir! Choir! are halfway to raising $30,000, enough to bring one Syrian family to Toronto. They were hoping to get closer to their goal Tuesday thanks to a charity concert at Lee's Palace on Bloor Street.

"Helping people in need is something that makes a place like Canada great," said Daveed Goldman, the group's co-founder.

"A lot of people in our group felt strongly about what's happening in Syria, and we just wanted to revive that sense of community by helping someone."

Creating a sense of community is exactly what's at the origin of the choir, now in its fourth year. With a cluster of dedicated and passionate singers, they've been holding weekly drop-in sessions, inviting anyone to sing along as they perform pop songs.

Tuesday's Sing for Syria event coincided with the 35th anniversary of John Lennon's death. To mark the occasion, the group sang Imagine with help from Reuben Bullock from Reuben and The Dark.

"Some of his lyrics in this song remind us that it's people that matter over everything else," said Goldman, noting the song's parallels with the situation in Syria.

"If we have a safe place like Canada, we should be doing everything to house others who are in trouble."

Rocky the raccoon
TWITTER/@GOTYLER107

TRANSIT

Raccoon hops on GO train

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A city raccoon was banished to the 'burbs Tuesday morning, run out of town on the rails of the Lakeshore West GO.

The critter was spotted frightened, hiding underneath a chair of a GO train departing from Union Station at about 7:15 a.m., said Metrolinx spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins.

"We heard a little bit of a shriek, and it was customers surprised by the hidden guest," she said. "The coach self-evacuated."

GO staff closed off the coach to the public and the raccoon retreated to the upper-level quiet zone "for a snooze," while the train continued on to Aldershot, where it was met by Burlington's animal services, Aikins said.

It's believed the raccoon boarded the train in Toronto, but it's unclear exactly why or how. It's not known if he paid his fare, Aikins said.

"I don't know if he was confused by the congestion around Union Station and got on by mistake, but we decided to send him out to the 'burbs," she said.

Aikins christened the raccoon "Rocky" and said she was happy that everything ended well for both the stowaway and GO commuters.

"At least it wasn't a snake in our photocopier," she added, referring to an incident that occurred in a York Region school Monday, where a snake was found in a photocopier.

IN BRIEF

Ikea monkey awaits roomies

On the eve of the Ikea monkey's third anniversary at a sanctuary, workers are building enclosures for two potential roommates: new Rhesus macaques arriving in January.

Darwin has lived at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary northeast of Toronto since 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hope in Toronto at inquiry's first step

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Recognizing tragedy is important: Professor

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's Aboriginal community reacted with hope and optimism after the federal government announced a long-awaited inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women Tuesday.

"The first step was for the government to acknowledge this is a national tragedy," said Promise Holmes Skinner, Aboriginal program co-ordinator at the University of Toronto.

"I'm very pleased that we have a government that's committed to moving an inquiry forward."

The Liberals will begin meeting this week with the families of missing and murdered indigenous women. The government promised the two-month consultations will include talks with indigenous organizations and other service providers.

The actual inquiry is expected to start next spring, officials said.

Skinner said the collaborative approach is a welcome change from the previous Conservative regime.

"I mean, comments from the previous government even dismissed that this was a sociological problem," she said.

But instituting the inquiry is not a solution in itself, said Jonathan Rudin, program director of Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto. As with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, it will take a lot of patience and hard work for people to come up with solutions, he said.

"It is good to get a sense of dimensions of the problem, so I'm glad this government is starting early," he said. "We can't predict the results but we are further along today than we were yesterday."

Bernadette Smith, from Winnipeg, wipes away tears as she talks about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women inquiry Tuesday on Parliament Hill. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We are further along today than we were yesterday.**
> Jonathan Rudin

AIR TRAVEL

Porter ceases push for island jet service

Porter Airlines' push to bring jet service to an expanded Toronto island airport is officially over.

PortsToronto, the federal port authority, said in a news release that it has halted work on an environmental assessment and two studies that were requested by city council in April 2014.

"PortsToronto will complete the technical work currently underway, but will not proceed with further public engagement-related activities pertaining to the Porter Proposal to introduce jets," said the statement from chief executive Geoffrey Wilson.

"As such, the studies will not be finished. PortsToronto will make data and information gathered to date available to the City of Toronto and stakeholders that may be helpful to the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan."

In late November federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau seemed to definitively kill the proposal for jets when he said the government would stick with a decision to not renegotiate an airport agreement among the stakeholders to extend the runway at Billy Bishop airport.

But the agency said despite the absence of any specific direction from the federal Trudeau government, it was still putting finishing touches on the studies for delivery to city council in early 2016. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Province pledges $20M for electric-vehicle chargers

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said Tuesday her government is investing $20 million toward hundreds of electric-vehicle charging stations to be installed within and between urban centres.

Environment Minister Glen Murray said the investment will go toward slower Level 2 chargers to be installed at workplaces, and faster Level 3 chargers that can replenish most of a battery system within 30 minutes. The money is part of Ontario's $325 million green fund, said Wynne. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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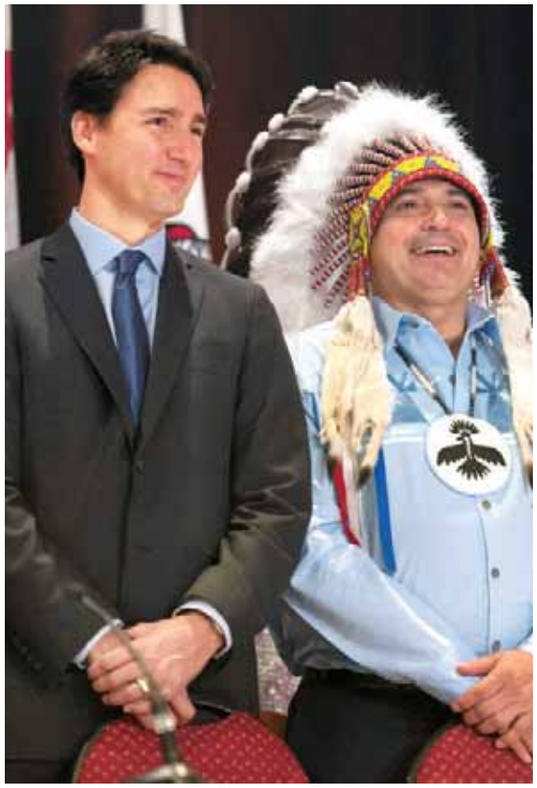


PM Justin Trudeau and AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly. Bellegarde said he's confident that Trudeau is listening to the different needs of First Nations. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau ends funding cap

FIRST NATIONS

Missing and murdered women probe announced

The leaders of Canada's First Nations swaddled Justin Trudeau in a ceremonial blanket Tuesday as they embraced the newly elected prime minister's commitment to what he called a "sacred obligation" to the country's Aboriginal Peoples.

Trudeau didn't show up empty-handed, either.

The Liberal government will lift a long-standing two per cent cap on federal funding for First Nations communities, he told the Assembly of First Nations gathering — that, despite mounting economic and political pressure on the federal pocketbook.

He said the Liberals would also provide additional money for long-awaited education reforms to be led by First Nations communities themselves, another long-standing sticking point with the previous Conservative government.

And he repeated one of the most anticipated promises of the 2015 campaign: to investigate the tragedy of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Three of his cabinet lieutenants kicked off the first consultative phase of what will be a federal inquiry next year.

"I promise you that I will be your partner in the years to come, and hope that you will be mine," Trudeau said.

We are going to go out and listen to what people say this needs to look like. Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett

The removal of the funding cap, which was imposed to keep transfer payments in line with inflation, has been top of the First Nations wish list for years. Critics say it has long since fallen out of step with a growing aboriginal population across the country.

But the most anticipated news came later, when Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu detailed the first phase of the inquiry.

Wilson-Raybould, one of two cabinet ministers with indigenous roots, said the government will consult the families of victims over the next two months for their input on the inquiry's shape and its goals.

"No inquiry, as we know, can undo what happened nor can it restore what we have lost. But it can help us find ways forward because we know, as a country, we can and must do better." THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

Promise fulfilled

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

With the Tuesday announcement that it's launching a national public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, the new Liberal government followed through on a central promise in its efforts to renew the relationship with Canada's indigenous peoples.

The Liberal election platform had promised to launch an inquiry "immediately."

There is no strict timeline, but Carolyn Bennett, the indigenous affairs minister, said it will last "as long as it takes to get it right.

Trudeau PROMISES TRACKER

- ✓ GENDER PARITY
- ☐ TAXATION
- ? REFUGEES
- ✓ CLIMATE
- ✓ INDIGENOUS WOMEN

SCIENCE

Scientists look for a tougher sunflower

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Imagine a sunflower that can grow using water more efficiently, even thriving in conditions as harsh as the Mojave Desert while still producing many seeds.

That's what an international team of scientists led by Vancouver botanist Loren Rieseberg is hoping to achieve through research he believes could improve food security for people around the world in the face of climate change.

"Drought is by far the biggest stress for sunflowers," Rieseberg, a botany professor at the University of B.C., told Metro. "The idea of our research is to make cultivated sunflowers that are extremely drought tolerant, but also tolerant of flooding, salt stress and low nutrient stress."

The team, funded by a $7.5 million grant from Genome BC, Genome Canada and other organizations, is using genomics to identify genes that have evolved in wild sunflowers to make them resilient to environmental stresses, and to breed cultivated sunflowers with the same favourable traits.

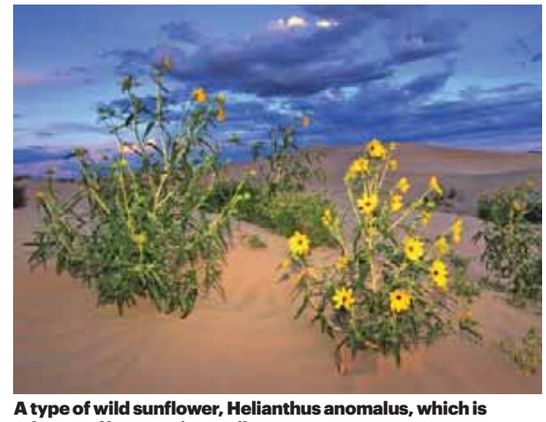
Sunflowers are an ideal crop for helping scientists better understand the mechanisms that plants use to combat environmental stresses, said Rieseberg.

That's because their wild counterparts have adapted to a variety of extreme habitats.

In experiments, the team planted wild sunflowers alongside cultivated sunflowers in dry, drought-like conditions and found that the former thrived while latter ultimately died out.

The team is also studying the species Helianthus anomalus, which grows on sand dunes.

"Sand dunes have almost no nutrients in them," said Rieseberg. "But that sunflower is doing just fine. It's very tolerant of low-nutrient conditions."



A type of wild sunflower, Helianthus anomalus, which is tolerant of low-nutrient soils. CONTRIBUTED

MISSISSAUGA

Islamic school closes for safety reasons after media report

A Mississauga Islamic school reportedly attended by four girls who travelled to Syria to join ISIS closed for the day on Tuesday, saying media reports about the school had put students and staff at risk.

"Al-Huda Institute Canada would like to be clear that law enforcement authorities have never brought forward any allegations that four girls associated with the Institute travelled to join terrorist organizations, as alleged in a CBC story," operations manager Imran Haq said in a statement Tuesday afternoon.

> **The Institute has no knowledge as to the identity of these individuals.**
> Operations manager Imran Haq

"In addition, the Institute has no knowledge as to the identity of these individuals and as such, cannot confirm whether or not they were enrolled in the Institution, for how long, or any other related information. We are and remain committed to working with authorities on this or any other matter."

The institute, which has branches around the world, came under scrutiny this week when it was revealed that San Bernardino shooter Tashfeen Malik attended a branch in Pakistan, founded by controversial scholar Farhat Hashmi. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Duffy takes the stand
Sen. Mike Duffy has finally begun testifying in his own defence against 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery. The Crown has wrapped up its case, leaving the field to Duffy and the defence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. woman missing in Grenada
Police were searching the Caribbean island of Grenada Tuesday for a missing woman from New Brunswick, Linnea Veinotte, who disappeared while out jogging. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Governator takes aim at emissions

Former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urged sub-national governments such as cities and provinces on Tuesday to march forward 'like a Terminator' on environmental issues.

Three premiers — Ontario's Kathleen Wynne, Quebec's Philippe Couillard and Manitoba's Greg Selinger — were in the audience as the actor spoke at the international conference on climate change in Paris.

"If you happen to be a pessimist and you don't expect any agreement here, no Kyoto 2 or anything else, then of course sub-national governments — the cities, states and provinces — are the best insurance policy because local policies can control 70 per cent of (greenhouse gas) emissions," he said.

The environmental activist said it is crucial for ordinary people to get involved at the grassroots level in the fight against climate change. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Outrage across the globe

POLITICS

Trump stands by plan to ban Muslims from entering U.S.

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's call to block Muslims — both immigrants and visitors — from entering the U.S. is being met with a chorus of near-universal condemnation from across the country and around the globe.

From the halls of Congress to 10 Downing Street, Trump's statement Monday advocating a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" was blasted as bigoted, unconstitutional and potentially dangerous for American interests abroad.

Trump's proposal is down to what he describes as hatred among "large segments of the Muslim population" toward Americans.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, breaking the custom of British leaders not commenting on U.S. presidential contenders, slammed the proposal as "divisive, unhelpful and quite simply wrong."

UN spokesman Farhan Haq said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon denounced "any kind of rhetoric that relies on Islamophobia, xenophobia, any other appeal to hate any groups."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued a statement in support of religious freedom.

> **He's empowering the enemy.**
> Sen. Lindsey Graham, on Donald Trump

"This is not conservatism," Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters. "What was proposed yesterday is not what this party stands for, and more importantly it's not what this country stands for."

Trump's campaign has been marked by a pattern of inflammatory statements, dating back to rhetoric that some Mexican immigrants, who entered the country illegally, are drug smugglers and rapists — but even that didn't evoke the same widespread level of contempt.

The billionaire businessman and former reality TV star has maintained his lead in early opinion surveys, despite the controversies, vexing his Republican rivals and alarming a Republican establishment in panic over the damage they fear he's doing to a deeply divided party.

Trump, who appears to revel in the attention, didn't back down from his proposal Tuesday, saying that banning Muslims "until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on" is warranted after last month's attacks by Muslim extremists in Paris and last week's shootings in San Bernardino, Calif.

"I don't care about them," Trump told CNN Tuesday when asked about denunciation by Republican leaders. He said the country needs to recognize that it's at war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate and businessman Donald Trump speaks during a rally aboard aircraft carrier USS Yorktown in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Monday. MIC SMITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EXPERT INPUT

Disaster for U.S., Canada

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Trump's statement that he would ban Muslims from the U.S. is only the latest in bigoted politics that would spell disaster for both the U.S. and Canada, one expert says.

If Trump becomes president, it would cause contention within the U.S. that the country hasn't seen since its civil war, and lead to a major decline in America's moral influence in the world, worse than the era of George Bush Jr., said Stephen Clarkson, a political science professor at the University of Toronto.

A President Trump would be a disaster for Canada too, considering its close economic ties and shared border with the U.S.

Should Trump's bombast lead to a military action or another act of terrorism against the U.S., Canada has obligations under NATO to respond, Clarkson said.

Smog is new normal for people in Beijing

CHINA

Residents of city adapting to pollution

Beijing issued a red alert this week for smog, triggering restrictions on traffic, school closures and factory suspensions. City residents reacted with a mix of alarm and nonchalance.

"This is modern life for Beijing people. We wanted to develop, and now we pay the price," Beijing office worker Cao Yong said during a break from work.

"You have to do whatever you can to protect yourself," Beijing resident Li Huiwen said while stopping at a market. "Even when wearing the mask, I feel uncomfortable and don't have any energy."

A man who gave only his surname, Du, said the haze was good for taking photographs of old buildings and that he was taking advantage of a lack of crowds near Beijing's ancient Forbidden City. "I like this kind of haziness. It gives a blurry feeling and makes you feel like you're in a dream."

"You live in Beijing, you just get used to it. Every winter is like this," said a store clerk who gave only her surname, Sun, and who said the restrictions were a nuisance. "But now that they're cancelling school, it becomes really inconvenient."

> **You just get used to it.**
> Store clerk in Beijing

"I would keep myself indoors, and wear a mask all the time if I'm outside on smoggy days. And air purifiers at home are a must," Beijing resident Sun Yuanyuan said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many in Beijing are becoming accustomed to wearing masks during winter since episodes of nauseating smog lasting several days has become increasingly common.
ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO

Couple practised with rifles at range

Days before killing 14 people at a holiday party, Syed Farook practised with a rifle during one of several recent visits to a Southern California shooting range, authorities said. Sometimes he was joined by his wife, his partner in the attack.

Farook visited Riverside Magnum Range in San Bernardino on Nov. 29 and 30, according to an instructor at the range about 32 kilometres from the Inland Regional Center, where the couple opened fire on Farook's co-workers on Dec. 2.

John Galletta said nothing was out of the ordinary about Farook's behaviour but that Farook asked a range employee why his rifle might be smoking. He was told it was because it was new.

The FBI said Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, embraced violent Islamist ideology.

Authorities disclosed that a year before the rampage, Farook's co-workers at the San Bernardino County health department underwent training on how to react to a workplace shooter in the conference room where the couple opened fire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Pistorius sentencing set for April, stays at uncle's
A judge Tuesday let Oscar Pistorius remain under house arrest at his uncle's mansion and set an April sentencing date, five days after an appeals court convicted the double-amputee Olympian of murdering his girlfriend. Pistorius' legal team plans to appeal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cameroonians attacked Nigeria villages: Refugees
Cameroonian troops crossed the border into Nigeria, killed about 150 villagers, burned their huts and forced them to flee, Nigerian refugees said Tuesday after walking for days to reach a refugee centre. Cameroon's government denied the charges.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Survey shows big problems at CBC

REPORT

Workplace psychologically unhealthy, staffers say

Many employees of Canada's national broadcaster believe the CBC workplace is psychologically unhealthy and managers do not deal effectively with issues that may threaten or harm them, according to an internal survey carried out following the Jian Ghomeshi scandal.

"Psychological health and care for individual well-being are significant concerns," says a report released internally to CBC. The results show 43 per cent of survey respondents said they would not describe their workplace as psychologically healthy.

Concerns were also raised by survey respondents over whether the CBC deals effectively with "situations that may threaten or harm employees." Almost a third (29 per cent) said the CBC does not.

A CBC spokesman said the results of the survey are "humbling." Chuck Thompson said it "provides a new baseline from which we will address the concerns expressed."

The survey, conducted for CBC in the summer by Gallup, also showed that "pride of association" in the national broadcaster has plummeted from 92 per cent of employees feeling proud to be CBC journalists and support staff in 2012 to 69 per cent in 2015.

Just over one half of the CBC's 7,600 full- and part-time employees completed the survey. The questionnaire asked people to answer the questions on a 1-5 scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree."

It was sent out in the wake of the Ghomeshi scandal and the report by lawyer Janice Rubin, which found that CBC suffered from a "host culture" that allowed a top talent like the former Q host to get away with harassing behaviour.

The commentary provided along with the survey references the Rubin report and states that the CBC's response to the findings are "in full swing and should help to restore a workplace we can all be proud of." The commentary said it is important that CBC managers work at "establishing and nurturing strong relationships and healthy and respectful daily interactions."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Psychological health and care for individual well-being are significant concerns.**
> Report released internally to CBC

BOSTON CHIPOTLE ROCKED BY NEW OUTBREAK Chipotle, still trying to recover from a multi-state outbreak of E. coli, has closed a restaurant in the Cleveland Circle neighbourhood of Boston after 80 students at Boston College, including the men's basketball team, reported "gastrointestinal symptoms" after eating at the chain. Chipotle says it thinks the latest illnesses are an isolated case of norovirus and unrelated to the E. coli cases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Stores just can't keep top whisky on shelves

It was recently named World Whisky of the Year, but good luck getting your hands on a bottle of Crown Royal's Northern Harvest Rye, as the award-winning Canadian whisky is flying off the shelves.

The Northern Harvest Rye is the first Canadian whisky to receive the honour of being named World Whisky of the Year by revered whisky connoisseur Jim Murray who gave it 97.5 points out of 100 in his Whisky Bible, the go-to guide for enthusiasts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

market minute

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OIL $37.51 US (–14¢)

GOLD $1,075.30 US (+10¢)

NATURAL GAS: $2.070 US (+0.3¢)
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What's Changing

Lakeshore West GO Train service will be reduced from every 30 minutes to **hourly from 8:00 pm to the end of service each night until December 15th**, due to track work.

Regular evening Lakeshore West service will resume on December 16th.

We appreciate your patience during this time.

For more information and to see your new schedule, visit **gotransit.com/servicechanges**
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METROLINX

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

I made the mistake of starting things back up with someone I had a "casual" relationship with. He didn't want me to be involved with any other guys, but he wanted to see other women. I blocked his number. Now I miss our friendship. What should I do?

Ani Castillo

Dear Ellen,

I made the mistake of starting things back up with someone I had a "casual" relationship with. The last time we saw each other he was really emotional about an ex-girlfriend and told me he still loved her. When we originally stopped talking, I didn't mind. But when we reconnected, I started to feel an emotional connection to him. After the last meeting, I truly felt hurt. I cried. He wanted us to continue seeing each other, but he didn't want me to be involved with any other guys. The sad part was he wanted to see other women, including me, but sleep with just his ex and me. I decided enough was enough. I texted him after the last meeting, letting him know we could not continue down the same road. I didn't give him a chance to respond. I blocked his number. Lately I find that I can't stop thinking about him. I miss him and our "friendship." What should I do?

L, Toronto, Ont.

Dear L,

Some might say this is not, strictly speaking, an etiquette question. But I've found through my own romantic ups and downs that good manners can often help guide the way through emotional thickets. So let's see what we can do for you in regards to politely handling your own broken heart.

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but your only choice right now is to suffer.

First, let's look at his behaviour. He sounds pretty screwed up. But at least he's not sneakily hiding his desire to get back with his ex-girlfriend. And he's been absolutely forthright about his ridiculous proposition that you remain available to him — and him alone — while he dates as many women as he wants while continuing to sleep with both you and his ex. So, credit to him for being honest, albeit insanely unreasonable.

It also sounds as if you've been straight with him, which shows your own excellent manners. You respectfully informed him in a text that you could not accept the "road" he was offering. Then you blocked his number. Is it rude to cut off communication like this?

Yes, if the other person deserves to be heard (and your conscience will tell you if that is the case). But it's not rude if you've both had your say and it's clear that one or both parties want the relationship to end.

Which brings us to your question: What should you do?

If you break down and see him, and give him what he wants (sex and friendship with no commitment while he sleeps with his ex-girlfriend), you will resent him and suffer. If you stay strong and keep his number blocked, but continue to obsess about him and wonder if you've made a huge mistake by cutting him off before he's had a chance to change and see how wonderful you are, you will doubt yourself and suffer.

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but your only choice right now is to suffer. Respect your broken heart, and expedite the healing process by forgetting what you "should" do. You're already doing it — agonizing through an impossible situation that only time will heal (and it will).

Need advice? Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The power of affirming that racism and sexism kill indigenous women

"It is time to hear their voices. It is time for justice," declared Claudette Commanda, an elder and band council member from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Nation in Quebec, an eagle feather in her hand.

She stood on Parliament Hill, welcoming reporters and family members of missing and murdered indigenous women to the announcement we all knew was coming: a national inquiry. It had all the trappings of a press conference, but the scene was imbued, even via a live video feed, with something different.

Something approaching humility, even sisterhood.

Commanda asked for a moment of silence for lives lost, and holding the feather high above her head, she teared up. She expressed hope for an end to violence against indigenous women, but her emotion suggested that she may actually believe in this announcement, believe there will be change.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, the minister of justice and a former B.C. First Nations chief, hugged Commanda before taking the podium. She, and the ministers of status of women and indigenous and northern affairs, attended a traditional ceremony the day before. They were carrying the eagle feathers gifted to them. As each finished speaking, they hugged, kissed cheeks.

It was as if a support circle stood behind the podium: Four women embracing each other and indigenous teachings in the search for answers to deeply engrained violence. Ministers listening to Commanda's prayer for help from the Creator with more than impersonal respect.

This wasn't the only heartfelt government announcement ever made. But it felt as if the "government" had been knocked from some pedestal. The welfare of indigenous Canadians, or all Canadians, had been put in its place.

That the press conference was about women, and delivered only by women, also felt significant — though women have given press conferences before. But these women seemed bound by their hearts as well as their priorities.

The ministers delivered talking points, citing high rates of violence against indigenous women, the need for justice and violence prevention.

The need to not be a government program, but a program devised by the people, to be implemented by government. Hence the choice to let the inquiry's details be shaped by consultation with experts and victims' families.

The media pressed for details. One CBC reporter asked about the impact of racism, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett was unequivocal: "Racism and sexism in this country kills," she said. Behind the podium, the women hugged.

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Odds in fans' favour for Hunger Games prequels
Lionsgate studio vice chairman says movie franchise will live on

4 Treats To Wow This Season

You don't have to be a kid to crave cookies this time of year. The holiday season is the one time you have a licence to bake (and eat) any (and all kinds) of treats. And you should. Homemade sweets are an easy way to make anyone feel giddy with happiness, and are impossible to resist. From spicy gingerbreads to sugar balls, these goodies make a thoughtful gift or easy dinner party dessert. They also taste pretty good with your morning coffee.

ALL PHOTOS BY MAYA VISNYEI

HOLIDAY TREATS

Chocolate Thumbprint Cookies

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

As classic as a sugar cookie, thumbprints can look sophisticated with a sparse sprinkling of icing sugar or kid-approved with lots of bells and whistles. We like bells and whistles.

Makes about 2 dozen

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup spelt flour
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar holiday sprinkles, silver dragees, crushed candy cane, mini chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 F.

2. Whisk the flours, granulated sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl. Add the melted butter and eggs and stir until combined. The dough will appear very dry just keep working it until you've incorporated all the ingredients. Cover and refrigerate the dough until firm, about 20 to 30 minutes.

3. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside. Place the confectioners' sugar in a bowl. Place the other toppings out in small bowls.

4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Scoop a tablespoon size amount of dough and roll it into a ball. Drop the ball in the confectioners' sugar and coat the outside.

Place it on prepared cookie sheet. Slightly flatten it with the palm of your hand and then press your thumbprint into the centre. Fill the centre with your choice of decoration. Repeat until dough is finished. Be sure to space the cookies two inches apart.

5. Bake the cookies until puffed and slightly cracked, about 10 minutes. Let cool three minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to rack to cool completely.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

EASY TO BAKE

Spiced Christmas Trees with Lemon Icing

Like your nostalgic favourite the gingerbread man, these spiced cookies look and taste every bit as festive.

Makes about 12

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups spelt flour, plus more for rolling
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp coarse salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup unsulfured molasses

For Icing:
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/3 cups confectioners' sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together the butter and sugar with a hand mixer until creamy.

3. Beat the egg and then add. Mix until combined. Add molasses until combined.

4. With the mixer on low, gradually add your flour, blend until combined. Remove the dough from the bowl and then wrap it in plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator to firm, at least an hour and up to 3 days.

5. On a lightly-floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick. With a sharp knife, cut dough into 2-inch wide triangles.

6. Place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper 1-inch apart from each other. Bake until cookies are firm and lightly browned on edges, 10 to 12 minutes.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

STORAGE TIP
The best part about these recipes is they freeze well. Store them in an airtight container for up to four weeks.

CLASSIC CHOICE

Heavenly Chocolate Peanut Butter Balls

A sprinkle of sea salt makes the classic flavours of chocolate and peanut butter feel all grown up.

Makes 25 to 30 balls

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup creamy natural peanut butter
- 3 Tbsp butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 8 oz chocolate, chopped (or chocolate chips)

DIRECTIONS

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, sugar and butter together until they form a dough. Scoop it and form a ball, cover in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for at least 15 minutes.

2. Using your hands, pinch off a small bit of dough and roll into 1-inch balls. If the dough gets too sticky as you're working just pop it back in the fridge for a few minutes. Place the balls on a parchment lined baking sheet. Place the baking sheet in the freezer for at least half an hour to chill. You want them cold and firm.

3. Place a small sauce pan with a couple of inches of water over medium heat until it simmers. Place the chocolate in a bowl and then set the bowl over the pan (don't allow the bottom to touch the water).

Once chocolate is melted remove from heat. Using a toothpick, pick up each ball, swirl it around in the chocolate; let excess drip off.

4. Place the dipped ball onto parchment lined baking sheet. Sprinkle with a pinch of sea salt before chocolate hardens. Refrigerate until you serve.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

GREAT GIFT

Coconut Snowballs

These little gems — with a hint of lemon — scream wintry treat.

Makes 2 dozen

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp cream cheese, softened
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 4 or 5 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.

2. Mix together flour, sugar, salt together in a bowl. With an electric mixer add softened butter about 1/4 cup at a time until it combines with the dry ingredients. You'll have a pebbly mixture.

Add 2 Tbsp of softened cream cheese and vanilla. You'll need to use your hands to bring the mixture together into a dough. Knead for a minute or two.

3. Line two cookie sheets with parchment.

4. Use a tablespoon to scoop the dough, roll it in your hands to make balls. Place on the lined sheets at least an inch apart. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until lightly browned. Take them out and allow them to cool completely on a rack.

5. While they cool, mix 3 Tbsp of lemon juice with 1 Tbsp of cream cheese. Slowly add 1 1/2 cups of confectioner's sugar until you have a thick icing. Now add as much lemon juice as you need to thin it out to a glaze.

6. On a plate, spread your coconut in a layer. Swirl each cookie in the glaze (let excess drip off) then press it in coconut to cover. Allow to set.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

WRAP IT UP

Gift wrapping ideas

Creative packaging tips that make you look like you know your way around a craft store.

There lots of fun, inexpensive ways to package your homemade cookies for gift. Depending on the kind of cookies and the amount you're gifting, try some of our pretty and creative ideas.

- Plain brown paper bags can be filled with any shape cookies and folded at the top and then secured closed with decorative homemade labels.
- A large Mason jar can be stacked with regular cookies or filled with balls. Adorn the lids with decorative homemade stick-on labels and tie the necks with jute twine, red and white baker's twine or yarn.
- Fill wine bags with a stack of cookies and then tie at the neck with a ribbon with a decorative hanging tag attached. Add a holiday ornament to make it more festive.
- Arrange balls or silver dollar size cookies in a decorative cardboard loaf pan with tissue and then cover with see-through wrapping and ribbon.

CERI MARSH & LAURA KEOGH

Mull these light options

THE HOLIDAYS

Tips to cut the calories in these festive drinks

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada

All year long you know to avoid drinking your calories. Then December hits and you are tempted. But you don't have to blow the month by the mouthful, save your calories for the food with these holiday beverage hacks.

Egg Nog

Averages about 225 calories per cup (without the rum!). Don't be tempted by the "low fat" versions, what they lack in fat, they make up in sugar. Instead, mix 50/50 with skim milk and add extra nutmeg.

Mulled wine

What could possibly be wrong with wine and spices? Most recipes also add in sugar by the gravy boat load, that's what. At about 250 calories per glass, some versions literally double the load of a harmless glass of wine. Make your own version with orange peels, star anise and cinnamon sticks. There is no sugar needed to make this cozy beverage in a slow cooker that will simmer all day and make your home smell like holiday without the scented candles. Or stick with your usual glass or two of plain red wine.

Pumpkin Latte

Tim Hortons pumpkin latte serves up a delicious 260 calories for a medium cup. For that, you can enjoy a straight up latte made with frothy skim milk and no sugar and an entire caramel dip yeast donut. That's right, the donut itself is 190 calories that you can actually eat.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

Cut the sugar out of mulled wine and opt for a version with just orange peels, star anise and cinnamon sticks. ISTOCK

LIQUID ASSETS

Cold nights call for warm drinks

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada

While you can release your inner mixologist by Googling mulled wine for the instructions on how to make your vino glow, there are plenty of pre-mixed versions of winter-oriented drinks available that only require you to know how to press the start button on your microwave.

Jack Daniel's Winter Jack ($19.39–$23.98) takes its inspiration from an original family recipe of JD, apples, cloves and cinnamon poured during the holidays by the famous Tennessee whiskey makers.

With a 15 per cent alcohol level, its whiskey flavour is subtle to say the least, allowing the spices to shine after being very lightly heated. Red hot in a completely different sense is Crown Royal's Northern Harvest Rye ($30.60-$34.99). Recently awarded World Whisky of the Year by Whisky Bible author Jim Murray, the super smooth Manitoba-made spirit, produced using an unheard of 90 per cent rye, is a must try for anyone who appreciates a good dram.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

POP-UP SHOP HEIST

Gwyneth Paltrow's GOOP shop robbed

Authorities are searching for three men who robbed Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop pop-up shop in New York City of more than $173,000 worth of jewelry and watches. It happened Saturday afternoon. Police say one of the suspects used some kind of object to open a cabinet containing the merchandise while the employees were distracted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The dish that adds some spice to life

THE CHILI COOKBOOK

Book traces 500 years of history, from Aztecs to Texas cowboys

Chili purists, steel yourselves. Or as author Robb Walsh suggests, at least suspend disbelief and let your taste buds be the judge while taking a colourful romp through chili history — and some creative adaptations of the ancient dish.

The Chili Cookbook has every version you can think of, and explores its evolution from Mexico to the American southwest and how it has influenced mealtime around the globe.

The Chili Cookbook ($24.99) is a 190-page hardcover that traces 500 years of chili, from the first Aztec stew to the tastes of modern Texas cowboys.

There are 60 recipes for chili disciples of all kinds — with or without beans, with or without meat, using venison and lobster, and merged with cuisines of countries like Hungary, Greece and Pakistan. There are recipes from American roadside diners and even the White House.

Use premium cocoa in this Cocoa Bird Chili recipe from The Chili Cookbook. CONTRIBUTED

Walsh also includes a primer on the varieties of dried and fresh chili peppers, and a ranking of commercial chili powders, which often substitute other spices for pure ground chilies.

Or there's a recipe to make your own.

Texan Robb Walsh is a longtime food writer who co-owns El Real Tex-Mex Café in Houston. On his journey into chili pepper culture, he says he discovered heart-stopping recipes in the most unlikely places.

Recipes we are dying to make include: Lobster chili; White chicken poblano chili; Huevos rancheros "Christmas"; Lentil, sweet potato and ancho chili; Frito pie.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE: COCOA BIRD CHILI

This recipe is adapted from The Chili Cookbook.

- 1-1/2 Tbsp (23 mL) canola or vegetable oil
- 2 medium yellow onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped finely
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) dried oregano leaves
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) ground cumin
- 1 lb. (450 g) ground chicken
- 1 lb. (450 g) ground turkey
- ¼ cup (60 mL) chili powder
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) kosher salt
- 28 oz. (796 mL) can whole tomatoes with juice, chopped coarsely
- 3 cups (710 mL) chicken stock
- 8 oz. (250 mL) can tomato sauce or 1 cup (250 mL) canned crushed tomatoes plus 2 Tbsp (30 mL) tomato paste
- 19 oz. (540 mL) can white kidney beans, drained, rinsed
- 19 oz. (540 mL) can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed

Garnish:

- Sour cream
- Chopped red onion
- Chopped fresh cilantro

In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add garlic, oregano and cumin.

Increase heat to medium high. Add ground turkey and chicken, breaking up with back of spoon. Stir until cooked through. Add chili powder, bay leaves, cocoa powder and salt. Add tomatoes with juice, stock and tomato sauce (or crushed tomatoes with tomato paste). Bring to boil. Reduce and simmer, uncovered, for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add white and red beans and simmer until flavours blend, about 10 minutes. Discard bay leaves. To serve, ladle chili into bowls, add a dollop of sour cream and sprinkle with red onion and cilantro. **Serves 8.**

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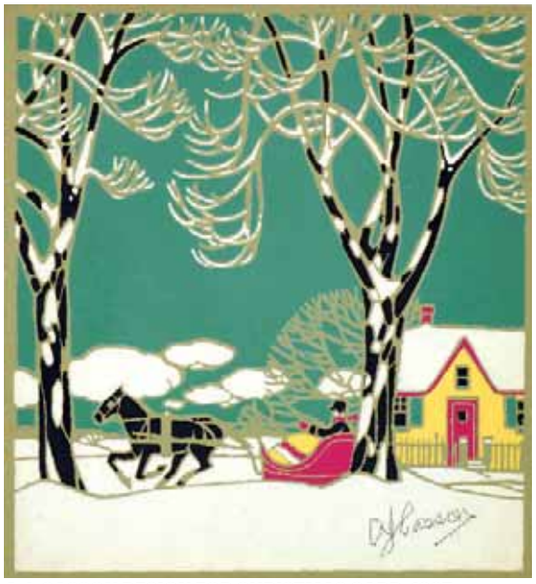
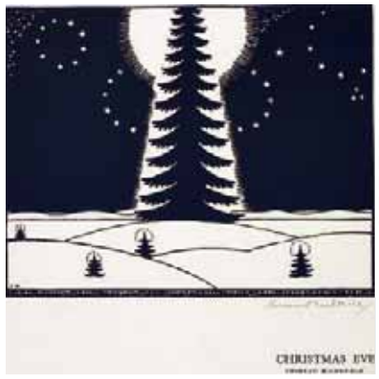


A.J. CASSON DESIGN FOR CHRISTMAS CARD, 1927

A.Y. JACKSON CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTOMECHANICAL PRINT WITH HAND-COLOURING ON COLOURED PAPER

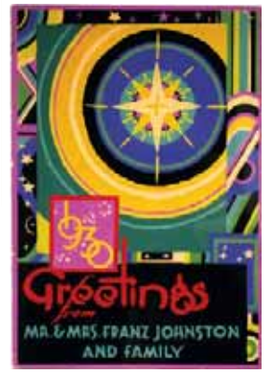


THOREAU MACDONALD CHRISTMAS EVE. MACDONALD WAS COLOUR BLIND, SO HE WORKED MOSTLY IN BLACK AND WHITE

JACK BUSH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD, 1934. THE ABSTRACT PAINTER PRODUCED A NEW CHRISTMAS CARD EVERY YEAR

LAWREN HARRIS THIS UNDATED CARD EVOKES THE GROUP OF SEVEN PAINTER'S HIGH-MODERN LANDSCAPES OF THE 1930S

FRANKLIN CARMICHAEL MOUNTAIN ASH (ROWANBERRY) STATE II



FRANZ JOHNSTON 1930 CHRISTMAS CARD, DONE IN AN ART DECO STYLE

A.J. CASSON DESIGN FOR CHRISTMAS CARD, 1927. THIS CARD WAS MADE THE YEAR AFTER CASSON JOINED THE GROUP OF SEVEN

Seasonal greetings down to a fine art

MCMICHAEL COLLECTION

Christmas cards from the Group of Seven and their peers

"This house was made for Christmas," Signe McMichael once famously declared about the modern pastoral estate she and her husband Robert built near Kleinburg in the 1950s, and with its multiple open hearths and forests of towering pines all around — not to mention its owners' staunchly traditionalist world view — she was absolutely right.

Even with a mild fall not giving much away to the winter wonderland just around the corner, the old house had a throwback sense of festivity to come.

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection's careful handling of its founders' fraught legacy is never too far from mind, as Robert fought to the last to keep the museum's vaults locked tight from modern and contemporary work that he believed would damage the legacy of his beloved Group of Seven and their peers. But if there's one time of year to not let such auld acquaintance be forgot, as they say, and embrace the simple sentimentality of the season, well, this is it.

This year, Signe's words about the festive season become the title of a show of Christmas cards, which isn't as cutesy as it seems. Make no mistake: it's certainly that, but the show is also a showcase of talents from the canon of Canadian artists, many of whom — like a good chunk of the Group of Seven — got their start as graphic or commercial artists.

Blossoming into professional painters, many of them kept up the practice of card-making for their friends and family, lending their holiday greetings the powerfully personal touch of their talents.

And about that traditionalist legacy: While you'll find the familiars here in great number — Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, A.J. Casson and friends — a few abstractionists, like Kazuo Nakamura and Harold Towne, sneak into the mix, but none more welcome than Jack Bush.

ON DISPLAY
This House Was Made For Christmas continues at the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art to Jan. 31, 2016.

Bush, who also began as a commercial illustrator, blossomed in his later years into one of the world's great abstract painters, as a major retrospective at National Gallery of Canada made clear.

Far from the robust abstraction of his legacy, Bush's cards are warming tributes to his personal life as a family man and man of faith, for whom the holidays brought special meaning he seemed bursting to share. Here, he ties it up with a bright red bow. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONTROVERSY

Adele accused of copying 1985 tune

A song off Adele's new album 25 is causing a stir in Turkey, where fans have accused the British songstress of copying a song by a popular Kurdish artist.

People have taken to social media to debate whether Adele's Million Years Ago closely resembles Ahmet Kaya's 1985 song, Acilara Tutunmak.

Adele's song, one Twitter user wrote, "is identical" to Kaya's well-known ballad. "Please credit him!" Some even went as far as calling Adele a thief. A prominent Kurdish artist from Malatya, Turkey, Kaya died in exile in Paris in 2000 at age 43.

Kaya's wife, Gülten Kaya, told Turkish daily Posta that she did not believe Adele deliberately stole the song. "However, if she consciously did it, then it would be theft," she said, according to Hurriyet Daily News.

Naim Dilmener, a Turkish musicologist, said he thinks the songs only resemble each other "a little bit." He said he didn't believe Adele copied Kaya's version.

The feelings behind both songs "maybe are the same," Dilmener said, but "that's all."

Adele's publicist did not immediately return request for comment. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fans of Kurdish artist Ahmet Kaya say Adele's Million Years Ago sounds a lot like his song Acilara Tutunmak. GETTY IMAGES

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Girlfriends' Guide is feminist stealth genius

GIRLFRIENDS' GUIDE TO DIVORCE, S1, E3 (SLICE SHOMI)

Lyla (Janeane Garofalo), one of three attractive, acerbic friends who are navigating life in their 40s in Los Angeles after divorce, has been called into her son's teacher's office because she sent her nanny to cover Story Time.

"It sends a message to children that they're not your priority," the teacher guilt-mongers. Lyla, a high-powered attorney, lets her have it.

"By all means, I apologize. I apologize for having a job. But here's the thing: I don't work, my kids don't go to school. So if you want to tell me tuition is free, I'll be here for Story Time, and Arbor Day, and every other bullshit holiday that costs me a fortune. But if you're not going to tell me it's free, I gotta work. Because I'm a working mother. Don't call me in here again."

She stalks out. Once she's through the door, though, her face crumbles, just for a second. She's right, but she feels like dirt anyway.

Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce tackles motherhood, marriage, loneliness and inequity. HANDOUT

This show is stealth genius. It lures you in with furiously-paced patter about ex-husbands and breast implants, and then socks it to you with home truths about motherhood, marriage, loneliness, inequity. At its best, Sex and the City pointed out what single women in their 30s had to deal with in the world's most success-oriented town.

Girlfriends' Guide takes that one decade further — it zooms in on the ironies and indignities inflicted on bright, vital 40-somethings in the capital of youth obsession. It's the most feminist show on TV.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Your essential daily news

Triple-threat Ioniq: Hyundai's first all-electric model also available as hybrid and plug-in hybrid

Forester stands out in a crowd

REVIEW

No need to go all the way with power with this compact SUV

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Extra power is good for bragging rights, but it isn't always necessary to opt for it just because it's there. That was evident when I drove the two engine choices in Subaru's Forester. While the base engine doesn't sound as impressive on paper as its stronger sibling, it should be enough for many drivers and for a lot less cash.

The entry-level powerplant is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder that makes 170 horsepower. Moving up to the turbocharged 2.0-litre gives you 250 horses, but it's an extra $2,200 to do so. Test-drive them both before you make up your mind solely on the power numbers.

My 2.5i, as it's called, was equipped with a six-speed manual transmission. It keeps the price down, but that's about all; the shifter feels mushy and there's no driving excitement in it. You're best to go for the automatic continuously-variable transmission (CVT). All-wheel drive is standard on all models.

The shifter aside, the Forester has always been one of my favourite vehicles. It's nicely sized and well-balanced, and the steering is light but responsive. It's roomy and comfortable, and the back seats fold flat for extra storage space. The cabin design is handsome and the controls are large and easy to use, save for a few touchscreen icons that can be tough to accurately tap when you're moving.

My 2.5i was in Touring trim, which gave me a 6.2-inch touchscreen stereo, while my turbocharged tester in top-line Limited trim included a 7-inch infotainment system with navigation that, new for 2016, includes map updating. Higher trim lines can also be optioned with EyeSight, which uses a windshield-mounted camera for such features as lane departure warning and collision mitigation.

"While the base engine doesn't sound as impressive on paper as its stronger sibling, it should be enough for many drivers.

This smaller SUV/crossover segment is a crowded one, but the Forester holds its own. It's priced about the middle of the pack, and since all-wheel drive is an option on some of its competitors, be sure you're comparing prices accordingly. I think its nimble feel and good road manners set it apart from many of the rest, even if you don't feel a need to go all the way with the power.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 SUBARU FORESTER

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Engine (hp/torque). 2.5-litre horizontal four-cylinder (170/174); 2.0-litre turbocharged horizontal four-cylinder (250/258)
Transmissions. Six-speed manual or continuously variable (CVT)
Price. $25,995 (base), $29,995 (as tested), plus destination

COOL FEATURES

- EyeSight camera-based safety technologies
- Steering-responsive fog lights
- Hill descent control
- Panoramic sunroof
- Power-operated liftgate
- Windshield wiper de-icer
- Auto-dimming mirrors

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

POINTS

- Subaru's "symmetrical" all-wheel drive doesn't refer to the power split, but to the position of its engine, transmission, and driveline components.
- The Forester can be ordered as PZEV, for Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle, which uses a specific catalytic converter, air intake and fuel injectors; it was designed to meet California's air standards.
- Turbo models add unique front-end styling but are optioned the same as comparable non-turbo trim lines.

MARKET POSITION

Subaru made its mark by offering all-wheel drive in all of its vehicles (except for the recently-added BRZ sports car), which made it popular for drivers facing Canadian winters, along with using only horizontally-opposed engines.

THE COMPETITION

Ford Escape AWD
Base price: $27,199

Toyota RAV4 AWD
Base price: $27,255

Honda CR-V AWD
Base price: $28,550

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*0% lease or finance available on 2015 Camry, Corolla, Yaris and Venza's for 36 months. Corolla CE manual transmission lease is semi-monthly for 60 months with $2250 down payment when you apply the $800 Lease Assist (On CE model only). Includes freight and fees, HST extra. All in Finance is Bi-weekly for 84 months when you apply the $500 Finance Assist (On Corolla LE, SE and LE Echo only). Includes freight and fees, HST extra. All in price includes freight and fees, HST extra. Rav4 FWD LE all in lease payment is Semi-monthly for 60 months with $1,950 down payment when you apply the $500 Lease Assist. Includes freight and fees, HST extra. All in Finance price is Bi-weekly for 84 months. Includes freight and fees, HST extra. All in price includes freight and fees, HST extra.

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Safety 10 Airbags

Fuel Efficiency 5.6 L/100km hwy♢

4G LTE Wi-Fi

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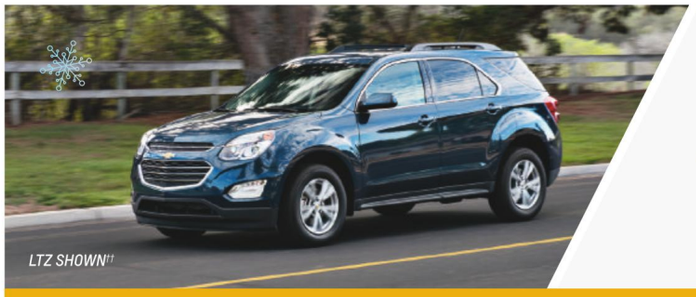

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$24,495*

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2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

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Fuel Efficiency 7.3 L/100km hwy♢

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE

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INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI, LEVIES, $3,000 CASH CREDIT♦ & $1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS.[1]

Safety 10 Airbags

Fuel Efficiency 6.9 L/100km hwy♢

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ▼Based on a 48 month lease for 2016 Chevrolet Cruze Limited LT Turbo 1LT. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/bi-weekly payments may vary depending on down payment, trade. A down payment or trade of $1,600 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is $6,683. Option to purchase at lease end is $12,991. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options are available. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2015 Chevrolet Trax LS 1SA+MH8+C60 and 2016 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1LS ♦$3,000 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 Chevrolet Trax/2016 Chevrolet Equinox and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Such credit is available only for cash purchase and by selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Other cash credits are available on most models. See dealer for details. 1 No purchase necessary. Open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest closes January 4, 2016. Credit Awards up to $10,000 include applicable taxes and must be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2016 MY Chevrolet vehicle delivered on or before January 4, 2016. 30 Vehicle Awards available to be won, each consisting of winner's choice of a vehicle with an MSRP of $35,000 CAD or less. The customer is responsible for any other taxes, license, insurance, registration, or other fees. Vehicle Awards are not transferable and no cash substitutes are permitted. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Vehicle Awards are not transferable and no cash substitutes are permitted. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. For full rules and program details visit your GM dealer or gm.ca. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. See your GM dealer or gm.ca for full contest rules and program details. ▼/*/♦/1/***Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,650/$1,700), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2015 or 2016 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GM Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. GM Canada reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ▲Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. ΔEPA estimated. ◊Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). ♠The Chevrolet Equinox received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact SUVs in a tie in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed in February-May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ©Based on 2015 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) testing. ††2016 Cruze Limited LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: $29,039. 2015 Trax LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: $30,394. 2016 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: $34,139. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **2** Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles delivered from December 1, 2015 – January 4, 2016. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on all new or demonstrator 2015 Silverado 1500 Double Cab 2WD WT / Crew Cab 2WD WT and Silverado HD WT 2WD. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $40,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $476.19 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $40,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. ®Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada

Today's coffee, tomorrow's bus fuel

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

BIODIESEL

London to be bean-powered?

British coffee purveyor Bio-bean wants to do more than provide customers with their morning jolt. It wants to use leftover coffee beans to heat homes and power buses in London. Bio-bean wants the city's caffeine dispensaries to contribute used coffee grinds to process them into pellets that can be used to heat buildings, reports Gizmag. Because coffee waste is about 20 per cent oil, it can also be processed into ethanol or biodiesel for use in cars and buses equipped to burn such fuels. The goal is to make enough pellets to heat upward of 15,000 homes, and eventually be used to help power the city transport system, which uses buses that run on biodiesel.

RIGHT FIT

Large vehicles that stop and go are excellent candidates for electrification. They're large enough to carry the batteries and they don't add pollution to already-congested urban areas.

SINGLE CHARGE

Electric transit bus cracks 400-km range

An electric transit bus that can serve any typical transit route in the United States has been developed by Proterra of Greenville, S.C. The company says its Catalyst XR model achieved 410 kilometres on a single charge circulating a test track at 50 km/h, giving it the best efficiency rating ever for a 12-metre bus, almost 160 kilometres more than China's BYD electric bus. The bus tested was fitted with a new generation of storage technology developed by Proterra and comprised eight battery packs. The body is aerodynamically designed and made from lightweight carbon fibre and other advanced composite materials. Proterra says its 10-pack XR configuration could exceed 500 kilometres on a single charge.

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

IMPROVED

Go further with Zero's electric motorcycles

Electric motorcycles have made large advances in a short time, and they continue to get ever better. California-based Zero Motorcycles' 2016 range of virtually silent two-wheelers grows to five distinct rides from three, ranging from street and dual-sport models to an off-road dirt bike. Zero is offering up an all-new motor and increased battery efficiency for longer range and higher capacities across the board, reports Gizmag. Riding the outgoing models hard for a day could cause them to overheat, tripping a thermal management mode that cuts power back to save the engine and battery from thermal damage. The new motor promises to provide full performance for longer, without overheating.

CALIFORNIA

Hydrogen stations making inroads, slowly

Having been chosen by Honda, Hyundai and Toyota as their launching pad for hydrogen fuel-cell cars in North America, California is responding with a growing number of hydrogen filling stations either already built, under construction or going through the permitting or regulatory approval process. But to date, notes Green Car Reports, only two of the about 50 stations underway meet the California Fuel Cell Partnership's definition of "full retail," being equipped to dispense hydrogen, accept all forms of payment as used at a typical gas station, and have no access restrictions. A further handful of stations previously built for demonstration purposes, research and pilot programs are operating but not selling to the general public.

+ FUEL-CELL SEDAN

Mirai demand vastly exceeds supply in U.S.

Early demand for the Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel-cell sedan outstripped the car's first-year United States allotment by nearly two to one.

Toyota plans to sell 1,000 hand-built Mirais in the United States per year to the end of 2017; but by early October, 1,900 California customers had applied for the 2016-model-year cars.

Available only in California initially, the virtually hand-built car sells for $57,500 US. Toyota expects nine out of 10 customers to lease their Mirai for $499 per month with $3,469 down.

Applicants must submit their requests to a dedicated Mirai order website and be interviewed for suitability, based largely on proximity to the limited number of hydrogen fuelling stations that currently exist in California.

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ON MOST NEW MODELS

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2016 ESCAPE SE FWD

LEASE FOR **$138** BI-WEEKLY @ **0.99%**†† LAPR FOR **60** MONTHS

WITH **$1,195** DOWN PAYMENT

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN

2015 FOCUS SE

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR **$118** BI-WEEKLY @ **0%**† APR FOR **84** MONTHS WITH **$0** DOWN

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(SALES TAX EXCLUDED)

2015 FIESTA HATCH SE

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toy mountain

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Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers only valid at participating dealers. Retail offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. For factory orders, a customer may either take advantage of eligible rainchecksable Ford retail customer promotional incentives/offers available at the time of vehicle factory order or time of vehicle delivery, but not both or combinations thereof. Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). *Until January 4, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus BEV, C-MAX, Mustang (excl. Shelby and 50th Anniversary), Transit Connect, F-150 SuperCab XL and 2016 Escape. F-250 Gas Engine models for up to 72 months, or 2015 Focus (excluding BEV) and 2016 Fusion models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72/84 months, monthly payment is $520.84/$416.67/$347.22/$297.62, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit Canada Limited. †Until January 4, 2016, receive $500/$750/$1,000/$1,500/$2,000/$2,500/$2,750/$3,500/$3,750/$4,250/$4,500/$4,750/$5,000/$10,000/$11,500 in ^Manufacturer Rebates^ (Delivery Allowance) with the purchase or lease of a new 2015 and 2016 Focus / 2015 F-250 Gas Engine, F-350 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) Diesel Engine/2015 F-150 SuperCrew 4x4 / 2016 F-150 SuperCab and SuperCrew / 2015 Fiesta, Fusion, Escape, Mustang (excl. Shelby and 50th Anniversary) / 2015 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2) / 2015 Transit Connect Wagon / 2016 Transit Connect Wagon with any Fleet configuration. Offer ends January 4, 2016, lease a new 2016 Ford Escape SE Titanium for up to 60 months and get 0.99% LAPR on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a 2016 Ford Escape SE Titanium with a value of $27,144/$36,689 after $1,195/$0 down payment or equivalent trade in at 0.99% LAPR for up to 60 months with optional buyout of $10,202/$13,575, monthly payment is $236/$407, the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $138/$188), total lease obligation is $19,135/$24,420) , interest cost of leasing is $321/$1,239 or 0.99% LAPR. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of 80,000 km for 60 months (16,000 km per year) applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change, see your local dealer for details. ¶Until January 4, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium models for up to 84 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium for $21,382/$27,164 (after Manufacturer Rebates of $750 deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Purchase a new 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium for $23,364/$27,164 with $0 down payment purchase financed at 0% APR for 84 months, monthly payment is $255/$324 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $118/$150), interest cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $21,382/$27,164. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight and air tax ($1,665 for Focus and $1,790 for Fusion) and PPSA charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes: All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Purchase a new 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium for $23,364/$27,164 (after Manufacturer Rebates of $750 deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Offer only valid from November 3, 2015 to January 4, 2016 (the "Offer Period"), to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before October 31, 2015. Receive $1,000 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2015/2016 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-MAX, GT350, GT500, F-150 Raptor, 50th Anniversary Edition Mustang, Mustang Shelby 350/350H and Medium Truck) model (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco membership. Offer is transferable to Costco members with a different household address. Offer is deducted from the negotiated price before taxes and after all other discounts, rebates and non-Ford incentives, but before taxes. Offer is not applicable to purchases made with any Costco Auto Program. Offer is not redeemable for cash (in whole or in part), has no cash surrender value and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer is not transferable to dealer stock. Dealer may not advertise this offer. Offer is subject to change without notice. Offer void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law. Offer valid in Canada only. Offer valid from November 3, 2015 to January 4, 2016 (the "Offer Period"). Costco membership number must be presented at the time of purchase or lease. Limit one (1) new 2016 Escape SE FWD (Oxford White) per Costco member with a $1,000 Costco member upgrade certificate (CA$25,150). Offer is deducted from the negotiated price before taxes and after all other discounts, rebates and non-Ford incentives, but before taxes. Offer is not applicable to purchases made with any Costco Auto Program. Offer is not redeemable for cash (in whole or in part), has no cash surrender value and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer is not transferable to dealer stock. Dealer may not advertise this offer. Offer is subject to change without notice. Offer void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law. Offer valid in Canada only. Offer valid from November 3, 2015 to January 4, 2016 (the "Offer Period"). Contest closes December 15, 2015. Skill testing question required. Prize may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for full contest rules. ©2015 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ®: Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under licence. ©2015 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

ELECTRIC RACING SERIES

Formula E to go AI route with Roboraces

Driver Lucas di Grassi demonstrates a Formula E race car in 2014. JOE KLAMAR/AFP

Real-time computing algorithms will replace humans in an innovative series of driverless races to be staged alongside the regular Formula E season, promoters said last week.

The Formula E championship features 10 teams of two drivers on city-centre circuits. Brazilian Nelson Piquet Jr. won the inaugural 2014-15 world championship.

The fully electric racing series is seen as a cleaner and greener alternative to Formula One and the news of the Formula E initiative coincides with the Paris-hosted COP21 global climate talks.

Now Formula E and Kinetik, a technology company specializing in electric vehicles and trains, will also stage races between 10 teams of two driverless cars on the same circuits as a warm-up show to the main event.

This new championship called "Roborace" will start for the 2016-17 season. The artificial-intelligence-guided one-hour races will run over the full championship.

Kinetik founder Denis Sverdlov said he believed it represented the future of motor racing and the motor industry.

"In the future, all of the world's vehicles will be assisted by AI and powered by electricity, thus improving the environment and road safety," he said.

Cities on the 2015-16 circuit include Beijing, Paris, Berlin, London and Buenos Aires. AFP

*Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2016 Tiguan FWD Trendline (#5N21V4) base model with 6-speed manual transmission. $1,760 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term at 1.99% APR. $0 down payment, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment in excess of payment credits (if applicable) due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $13,968. 64,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. ‡Limited time lease credits (on approved credit, through Volkswagen Finance) on select 2016 models available to be applied to first two monthly payments up to a maximum amount of $500 per month for the Tiguan FWD Trendline. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end January 4, 2016 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Model shown: 2016 Tiguan 2.0T Highline R-Line, $39,993. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only and may include optional equipment. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Tiguan", "TSI", "Highline" and "Trendline" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2015 Volkswagen Canada.

Floor mats: A love story

Mike's floor mat team — summer and winter — is always there for him. MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO

AUTOPILOT

It's a dirty job but they do it (though maybe avoid beige)

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

One of the most unheralded components of our vehicles is the floor mat. It's time to give it some love.

Not a huge amount. That would be crazy and weird.

But enough to acknowledge the tough work they do down there, by our feet. They literally get stepped on, multiple times every day. And sometimes we grind dirt deep into their fibres.

They are in the first line of fire in the war against interior dirt, and their lifespan can be short, certainly never as long as the vehicle itself. They are designed to take a hit, and when they have taken too many, they get replaced.

But during their short life span they give it their all. My summer mats are made of carpet and rubber, and when I use the high-pressure wash wand at my local do-it-yourself car wash emporium, to blast the dirt out of them at season's end, I always marvel at how much dirt they are able to suspend for their meagre size.

These carpet mats, which typically come standard on new vehicles, are there not only to keep things clean, but also to look inviting, and make the interior feel like your living room. If these floor mats are in a light shade, like beige or pale blue, to match the interior … well, there's no hope for them in the long run. They have an impossible job.

I once had a Porsche test vehicle with light beige cashmere floor mats. I turned them upside down for the whole week I had the car, lest I get a mark on them, and was never able to enjoy the esthetic beauty they were designed to deliver. I looked at their rubber backing all week and thought what an irresponsible and lavish way to design a floor mat.

When you come to think of it, floor mat design has not progressed much over the years, especially when you consider all the rampant technology that has reached other parts of the vehicle. By this time shouldn't we have some sort of automatic floor mat roll, which could roll a new section of floor mat into place as soon as one section got dirty? Or some kind of built-in wet-vac system that could automatically and quickly suck up snow, water, or spilled mocha latte?

I guess the latest advance would be the moulded hard plastic "trays" that are specially made for every individual model. Weathertech is the leading proponent of these products, and I recently got a set, which look very well engineered, and fit great. But they do make me feel like I need special help — like during a fancy restaurant dinner, I'm the one with a plastic tray on my lap, instead of the nice, linen napkin everybody else uses.

But that's a small price to pay for the great winter floor protection I'm looking forward to, from my hardworking, underappreciated floor mats.

Tucson rides tall in flexibility, value

USED VEHICLE

Be sure to check suspension and transmission of 2010-15 models

Launched for model year 2010, the second-generation Hyundai Tucson competed primarily with the Equinox, CR-V, RAV4, Patriot and other compact crossover SUV models. All units offered seating for five, a decent cargo area, and a tall and commanding driving position.

Feature content included standard electronic stability control, Bluetooth, a navigation system, backup camera, heated seats and more. Note that model-year 2014 saw an update across the Tucson range, adding fuel-saving technology under the hood, and more feature content. Updated looks and a re-tuned suspension helped round out the updates.

Look for four-cylinder power on all used models, with output as high as 180 horsepower. Six-speed transmissions in automatic or manual were available, as was all-wheel drive, which comes only with the automatic transmission.

The test drive

Test-drive the used Tucson with an ear for rattles, clunks, tapping sounds or popping noises from the rear end, especially in cold weather. Unwelcome sounds like these could be the result of a suspension bushing that's worn, and allowing metal components to contact one another. Other unwelcome noises have been reported as a precursor to an under-warranty replacement of some suspension components, like the shock absorbers or shock mounts. If any unwelcome noises are detected on your test drive be sure to have them investigated by a mechanic.

Next, check the shift lever, multiple times, as you change from Park to Drive to Reverse and the like. Any issue shifting smoothly between positions, or unwelcome hesitation or clunking during shifts, may require attention to the shifter linkage, in the form of lubrication, adjustment or replacement. While shifting gear positions frequently, ensure your Tucson candidate's backup camera (if equipped) works as expected, several times. Some owners have reported issues with non-functionality.

Note that some owners have reported issues with the Tucson's automatic transmission, relating to hard shifting, failure to respond with a downshift, or random clunking from beneath the vehicle during shifts. Though somewhat inconclusive, these issues may be software- and sensor-related in nature, possibly caused by a bad vehicle speed sensor, or a bad temperature sensor within the transmission. Some owners have had success with having new software installed to the transmission control computer, or having that computer reset.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

COURTESY HYUNDAI

What owners like

Tucson's "just-right" sizing, cargo accommodations, driving feel and storage space throughout the cabin are highly rated. Overall value, a comfortable ride, safety features and fuel mileage are also commonly praised by owners.

What owners dislike

Some owners wish for seat fabric that's less easily stained. Many owners report satisfaction with fuel economy, but a healthy cluster of owners also complain that they're unable to achieve the factory-claimed fuel efficiency figures.

The verdict

Tucson was loved for value and an all-around pleasant and flexible driving experience, though a list of owner-reported issues illustrates the importance of a pre-purchase inspection at a Hyundai dealer before your purchase. Commonly reported issues should be easy for a technician to detect and repair.

EMISSIONS

French carmakers get top marks in CO2 tests

French manufacturers topped the list of European cars and vans with the lowest carbon emissions, the European Environment Agency said in a report published on Thursday.

French vehicle brands Renault, Peugeot and Citroen — which ranked first, second and third — had an advantage in the study because average emissions data was evaluated without taking into account the number of cylinders in the engine or the fuel.

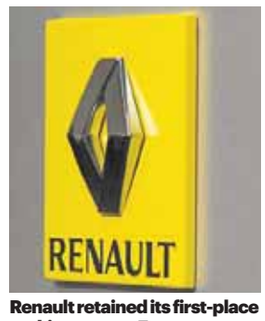
France sells smaller engines in southern Europe, and the French market is also dominated by diesel engines, which generate less CO2 than petrol.

In 2014, Renault retained its first-place ranking, with 108 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre (g/km), ahead of Peugeot (110 g/km), which had previously been third behind the Korean Hyundai, and Citroen (111 g/km), which had previously been tied at fourth.

Overall, vehicles sold in Europe in 2014 emitted 2.5 per cent less CO2 than in 2013, a decrease that remained constant compared to previous years. But this figure excludes Volkswagen after the company admitted in early November that its emissions were 18 per cent higher than previously reported. AFP

IN THE LAB

The emissions data were based on tests performed in a laboratory setting using a standard European vehicle test cycle. The results might not reflect real-world driving performance, the report said.



Renault retained its first-place ranking among European car brands. ERIC PIERMONT/AFP

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You will be reimbursed for your participation and travel.
Study participation is voluntary.

Meet the 2016 Nissan Titan XD

The last time the Titan pickup was all new was way in back in 2004; a lot has changed for 2016. Aside from technology, content and structural upgrades, Nissan is launching its biggest, baddest and most-loaded-up model first: the four-door, four-wheel-drive "XD" with a Cummins turbo-diesel V8. It arrives late this year. By spring, there will be V6 and V8 gas engines and two-wheel-drive. **JEFF MELNYCHUK** WHEELBASE MEDIA

1 Wheels
Wheel sizes range from 17 to 20 inches in diameter, with 14.2-inch front brake rotors.

2 Back
Tailgate lowers slowly and is light to lift.

3 Frame
The boxed ladder frame will be available in a stretched version, too.

4 Truck bed
Sprayed-on bed-liner and covered waterproof storage with lighting under the rails. There's also a power outlet.

5 Inside
No buttons or dials here, as the shifter for the six-speed automatic transmission is located on the column. The black and tan interior leather is apparently inspired by hunting jackets.

Ford's Remote Park Assist lets you park your car by remote control. FORD MOTOR COMPANY

TECHNOLOGY

Ford testing semi-autonomous systems to help drivers in a jam

Ford wants to take the stress out of every element of the daily commute, from coping with stop-start rush-hour traffic to quickly and safely manoeuvring into a parking space at journey's end.

"For many drivers, experiencing heavy traffic on the way to work can leave them stressed and angry, even before the work day begins," said Reid Steiger, technical expert for automated driving at Ford of Europe.

Ford's potential solution, Traffic Jam Assist, is currently in the testing stage and works by combining a number of already developed individual active driver aids — adaptive cruise control and lane keeping

"Traffic Jam Assist helps the driver maintain the distance to the vehicle ahead and helps to keep the vehicle centred in the lane. The system aims to reduce driver stress in dense traffic," explains Steiger.

When activated via the push of a button, in a traffic jam situation, the car's radar and cameras monitor lane markings and how far away the car is from the vehicle in front. It can then take over, moving forward when space opens and slowing to a halt again in time with the traffic. The driver can take over at any time and the system monitors steering wheel interaction to make sure the driver is still alert and ready to step in if needed.

The second system being put through its paces is called Remote Park Assist, which enables the driver to park the car, via a key fob command, remotely. Standing outside the vehicle in a parking lot or underground garage, the car will be able to manoeuvre itself into a perpendicular space without any assistance. AFP

OTHER CARMAKERS

Ford is by no means the only carmaker working on these types of systems. The latest **BMW 7 Series** will park itself remotely with the push of a keyfob button.

Likewise, **the Volvo XC90** semi-autonomously drove the mayor of L.A. through rush-hour traffic on his way to the Connected Car Expo just four weeks ago.

Meanwhile, **Tesla Model S** owners can let their cars take the strain on the highway, slowing down when the car in front stops or even autonomously overtaking and returning to the right lane.

However, unlike BMW, Volvo or Tesla, Ford is a truly mass-market brand. Drivers globally are most likely to get their first taste of autonomous driving technology when it arrives in a Ford or GM car.

> **"The system aims to reduce driver stress in dense traffic."**
> Reid Steiger, technical expert for automated driving at Ford of Europe, on the Traffic Jam Assist system

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

9	4	7	2	8	5	6	3	1
5	8	1	3	7	6	2	4	9
2	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	7
6	9	3	5	4	7	8	1	2
4	1	2	6	9	8	3	7	5
7	5	8	1	3	2	4	9	6
1	6	4	7	5	3	9	2	8
8	2	9	4	6	1	7	5	3
3	7	5	8	2	9	1	6	4

Bring home a HONDA

TEAR OPEN A DEAL ON A 2016

2016 FIT DX FROM

$49 AT 4.99% APR WEEKLY LEASE FOR 60 MONTHS[Ω]. EXCLUDES LICENSE AND HST.

$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT $0 DOWN PAYMENT/OAC

FROM 8.1 CITY / 6.4 HWY (L/100 KM)^

MODEL GK5G3GE

MODEL CR2E3GE

NEW 2016 ACCORD LX FROM

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$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT $0 DOWN PAYMENT/OAC

FROM 10.3 CITY / 7.2 HWY (L/100 KM)^

2016 CR-V LX FROM

$75 AT 2.99% APR WEEKLY LEASE FOR 60 MONTHS[Ω]. EXCLUDES LICENSE AND HST.

$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT $0 DOWN PAYMENT/OAC

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MODEL RM3H3GE1

HondaOntario.com
Ontario Honda Dealers

LEASE PAYMENTS INCLUDE FREIGHT AND PDI.
DEALER ORDER/TRADE MAY BE NECESSARY.

HONDA

Limited time lease offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Weekly payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,595 to $1,695 depending on model), EHF tires & filters ($22), A/C charge ($100 except Fit DX models), and OMVIC fee ($10). Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. ΩRepresentative weekly lease example: 2016 Fit DX 6MT (Model GK5G3GE) // 2016 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3GE) // 2016 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3GE1) on a 60 month term with 260 weekly payments at 4.99% // 3.99% // 2.99% lease APR. Weekly payment is $48.87 // $71.76 // $74.84 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in and $170 // $350 // $240 total lease incentive included. Down payments, $0 security deposit and first weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,706.15 // $18,658.38 // $19,457.74. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $45.93 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. For all offers: license, insurance, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Colour availability may vary by dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ^Estimated fuel economy based on Government of Canada's 5-cycle testing method. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors – use for comparison only. For more information on 5-cycle testing, visit http://vehicles.nrcan.gc.ca.

0%† FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS
ON SELECT 2016 MODELS

+

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EXCLUSIVE TO OUR EXISTING FINANCE AND LEASE CUSTOMERS.

TOTAL DISCOUNTS UP TO $10,000◊

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$157 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING➢ @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $998 DOWN OR STEP UP TO CREW SXT 4X4 FOR ONLY $19 MORE BI-WEEKLY OR GET 0% FINANCING† FOR 60 MONTHS

Starting From Price for 2016 Ram 1500 Sport with Performance Hood shown: $42,135Ş

Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk shown: $35,540Ş

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT FWD
BEST-IN-CLASS CAPABILITY∞

$142 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING➢ @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN STEP UP TO 2016 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH 4X4 $179 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING†† @ 2.99% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN + SAVE THE FREIGHT!♦ LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE OR GET 0% FINANCING† FOR 72 MONTHS ON OUR MOST POPULAR MODELS

2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
CANADA'S BEST-SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 31 YEARS

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Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: $31,640Ş

Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $32,140Ş

2016 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
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Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

Jeep. RAM

Wise customers read the fine print: †, ◊, •, Ω, ➢, ††, ♦, ‡, », ≈, *, § The Be Your Own Santa offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after December 1, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,745), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for up to 72 months available on select new 2016 models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey SXT (29E) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$33,038/$26,323/$27,850 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 60/72/72/36 months equals 130/156/156/78 bi-weekly payments of $226/$212/$169/$357 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $29,368/$33,038/$26,323/$27,850. ◊$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2016 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $7,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts, $1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash and $1,000 Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. •Up to $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash is available until December 31, 2015, on most new 2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and FIAT models excluding the following: 2016 Chrysler 200, Dodge Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE Plus, Durango, Charger SRT Hellcat, Challenger SRT Hellcat, Viper and Jeep Grand Cherokee models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. ΩFinance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash and 1% Rate Reduction is available to eligible customers on the retail purchase of select 2015/2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT models at participating retailers. LIMITED TIME OFFER. Finance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. 1% Rate Reduction applies on approved credit to most qualifying subvented financing transactions through RBC, TD Auto Finance & Scotiabank. 1% rate reduction cannot be used to reduce the final interest rate below 0%. Eligible customers include all original and current owners of a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT model with an eligible standard/subvented finance or lease contract maturing after January 1, 2015. Trade-in not required. See retailer for complete details and exclusions. ➢3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2015/2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$25,675 with a $998/$0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $157/$142 with a cost of borrowing of $4,185/$3,788 and a total obligation of $33,553.47/$29,462.88. ††2.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3) with a Purchase Price of $33,038 with a $0 down payment, financed at 2.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $179 with a cost of borrowing of $4,150 and a total obligation of $37,187.67. ♦Save the Freight offer applies to specially marked 2016 Jeep Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3) and 2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited 4x4 (26G+AFF+AHT+RC3) models only. Offer available at participating Ontario retailers, while quantities last. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $20,995/$20,150 with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $118/$113 with a cost of borrowing of $3,563/$3,420 and a total obligation of $24,558.35/$23,569.94. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015/2016 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before December 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baeumler Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ≈Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 6.99% financing available on select 2015/2016 models. Financing example: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $20,995 financed at 6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $146 with a cost of borrowing of $5,614 and a total finance obligation of $26,608.53. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ∞Based on 2014 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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DODGE CARAVAN KIDS
PROUD SPONSOR OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA

The Pittsburgh Penguins announced winger Pascal Dupuis has been forced to retire due to a medical condition related to blood clots

The kid does it yet again

NHL

Rookie goalie Sparks wins in a shootout against Devils

Nazem Kadri scored the shootout winner and Garret Sparks made 25 saves as the Toronto Maple Leafs downed the visiting New Jersey Devils 3-2 on Tuesday.

P.A. Parenteau and James van Riemsdyk scored in regulation for the Maple Leafs (10-13-5).

Lee Stempniak and Kyle Palmieri supplied the goals for the Devils (14-10-4) as Corey Schneider stopped 36 shots for New Jersey.

The Leafs went 1-for-5 on the power play; the Devils scored twice on five chances.

Roman Polak took a cross-checking penalty 39 seconds into the game that led to the opening goal. Stempniak tipped a John Moore point shot past Sparks to make it 1-0 just 45 seconds into Polak's penalty.

Toronto had 10 of the next 11 shots on net after Stempniak scored on the first shot of the game, and wound up on the board with a fluke goal from Parenteau.

Parenteau one hopped a harmless wrister from just outside the blue line that fooled Schneider over the glove hand to tie the game 1-1 at 14:24.

Schneider was forced to bail his team out late in the first as Toronto kept the pressure on in New Jersey's zone. The Leafs outshot the Devils 17-7 after 20 minutes and 25-17 heading into the third.

Matt Hunwick nearly had his first of the season when he rang a point shot off the post behind a screened Schneider six minutes in and Byron Froese almost had his first career NHL goal when he was sprung on a breakaway only to be stopped by Schneider.

Toronto took a 2-1 lead at 2:12 of the second when van Riemsdyk tipped a Dion Phaneuf blast through Schneider's legs from the top of the crease while on the power play.

With Froese serving a holding-the-stick penalty, Palmieri responded midway through the second with a one-timer from the top of the faceoff circle to make it 2-2.

Neither netminder was busy to start a slower-paced third. New Jersey had just three shots on Sparks midway through the period while the Leafs came up with just one on Schneider.

This was Leafs GM Lou Lamoriello's first game against the Devils, the club he spent the previous 28 seasons in charge of before joining Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Devils centre Adam Henrique collides with Maple Leafs goalie Garret Sparks on Tuesday night. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TUESDAY at the ACC

3	2
LEAFS	DEVILS

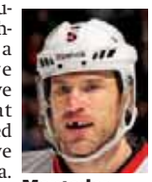
CONCUSSIONS

Family of late player Montador suing NHL

The family of the late Steve Montador is suing the NHL over concussions and other brain injuries the defenceman suffered during his playing career.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. federal court, alleges that the league collected data on concussions as far back as 1997 but failed to warn Montador about the dangers.

Montador died in February, and an autopsy showed the 35-year-old suffered from Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, a progressive degenerative disease that can be caused by repetitive brain trauma.



Montador GETTY IMAGES

The family alleges that Montador suffered "thousands of sub-concussive brain traumas" along with multiple concussions.

The 34-page complaint states that the NHL "failed to keep (Montador) reasonably safe during his career and utterly failed to provide him with crucial medical information on the permanent ramifications of brain trauma."

Montador played 571 regular-season and 43 playoff games for six NHL teams.

The allegations against the league have not been proven in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salary cap requirements led the Blackhawks to trade Patrick Sharp, pictured, Brandon Saad and Johnny Oduya shortly after they won the 2015 Stanley Cup. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

HOCKEY

NHL sees $3M salary cap hike in '16-17

While the Canadian dollar continues to struggle, NHL revenues are up enough that the salary cap could increase by as much as $3 million US for next season.

The Canadian dollar is currently worth 74 cents U.S., something that hurts the league when some of its most lucrative markets are Canadian. But commissioner Gary Bettman said speculation and commentary about the declining Canadian dollar is "a little off the mark" as business is still going well.

Board members said the early projection for the 2016-17 salary cap was about $74.5 million, up from $71.4 million. But that depends on several factors.

"When I give a number, they're all soft this time of year, so I don't want to pinpoint any number," Bettman said. "Don't take that to the bank yet because it's early. It's only December."

A year ago the board was given a rough projection of $73 million, but that was contingent on the Canadian dollar being worth 88 cents. It continued to fall.

$74.5M

The early projection for the salary cap, up from $71.4 million in 2015-16.

The hike would be welcome for those who spend to the ceiling. Think about the Tampa Bay Lightning with captain Steven Stamkos still unsigned or the Los Angeles Kings, who are working to get a deal done with centre Anze Kopitar.

"The league has been pretty accurate in their estimation of the cap in the coming year," Lightning GM Steve Yzerman said.

"So it does help you plan a little bit and you have a better idea."

The Stanley Cup-champion Chicago Blackhawks could have used more room last summer when they traded Patrick Sharp, Brandon Saad and Johnny Oduya and let Brad Richards leave in free agency. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier player over 20 years

NBA

Duncan still has Spurs running like well-oiled machine

It has been a wonderful week to be a Raptors fan in Toronto because the creativity, speed and magic of Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors on Saturday and the last chance to fete Kobe Bryant on Monday.

Curry is a singular talent on the ascent, as good a shooter as has ever lived, and to see him in person had to be a treat. The soon-to-retire Bryant connected with Toronto fans like few other players ever have, and the nights were events as much as they were games.

Now?

Now the fans get to see someone who could be regarded as the best player of the last 20 years and certainly the most consistently successful team of the same era. And if anything exemplifies the regard with which Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs are held, it's that their arrival for their lone visit of the season for Wednesday's game has been lost in the hype associated with Curry, the Warriors, Bryant and — despite the wretchedness of their current season — the Lakers as an iconic franchise.

"I think among the NBA circle they get the credit, people in the NBA certainly know how good, how consistent, how disciplined that team has been for such a long time," Raptors assistant coach Rex Kalamian said Tuesday of the Spurs.

No one's had a chance to ask the Spurs about that, but unquestionably the feeling is they certainly don't mind and absolutely don't care.

It's not "The Spurs' Way" to get caught up in such minutiae, they'd rather go about the business of winning and winning big without much of the accompanying hoopla that's a distraction more than anything. Let others pile up the highlight-reel moments and the press clippings; the Spurs simply want to win.

And Duncan is a perfect example of that.

He doesn't have the bullish strength of a LeBron James, he doesn't shock people with shots out of nowhere like Curry, he doesn't have the outward emotion and creativity of Kobe Bryant, he doesn't have the lithe body and effortless style of a Kevin Durant or the ball dominance of a Carmelo Anthony and hell-bent nature of a Russell Westbrook.

Duncan does, however, have skills that are simply out of this world. It's safe to say that maybe five per cent of the players in the league can make the same 15-foot banked jump shot he has made thousands of times in his career with defenders crowding him and everyone in the arena knowing what he wants to do.

"You get a little jealous at how easily their offence clicks."

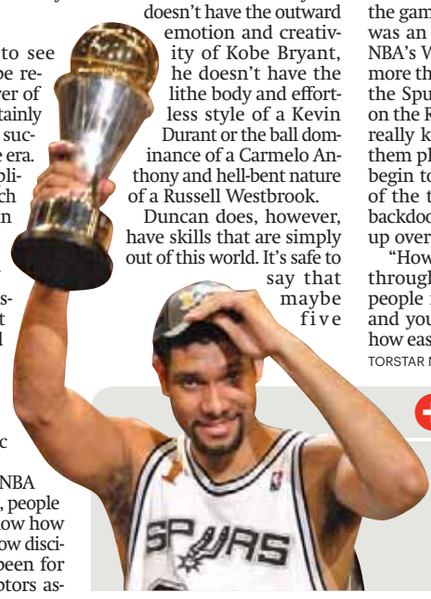
Raptors assistant coach Rex Kalamian on the Spurs

Duncan and the Spurs also have a subtlety that is the envy of 29 other franchises.

"(It's) the non-verbal communication they have with each other, the tricks within the game," said Kalamian, who was an assistant coach in the NBA's Western Conference for more than a decade and knows the Spurs better than anyone on the Raptors staff. "You don't really know unless you watch them play every night and you begin to understand that a lot of the things they get — the backdoor cuts — these are built up over time.

"How they play, really play through all that stuff, for us people in the NBA is amazing and you get a little jealous at how easily their offence clicks."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



TROPHIES

Duncan has won five NBA titles, three NBA Finals MVP awards and two regular-season MVP trophies.

The Spurs' Tim Duncan battles for a rebound against Chris Kaman of the Trail Blazers on Nov. 16 in San Antonio. ABOVE: ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; LEFT: LAYNE MURDOCH/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Manziel placed back in the pocket

Johnny Manziel's timeout has ended. He's starting for the Browns again.

The polarizing quarterback will play Sunday against the San Francisco 49ers, returning to the lineup after being benched two games by coach Mike Pettine for defiantly partying during the team's bye week.

Pettine is giving Manziel another chance after the second-year QB broke a promise that he wouldn't become a distraction when the team was off last month. Manziel had been named the starter for Cleveland's final six games on Nov. 17 only to throw away the opportunity with his escapades.

He was demoted to third string, but moved up one spot last week when Josh McCown sustained a season-ending collarbone break.

Manziel will replace Austin Davis, who started Sunday's 37-3 embarrassing loss to Cincinnati. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Tigers sign reliever Lowe

The Detroit Tigers have completed a two-year contract with reliever Mark Lowe, adding a setup man for new closer Francisco Rodriguez.

A 32-year-old right-hander, Lowe was 1-3 with a 1.96 ERA for Seattle and Toronto this year, striking out 61 in 55 innings. He did not allow a run in 49 of 57 appearances.

Tigers general manager Al Avila says "Mark solidifies the back end of our bullpen." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zobrist, Cubs agree on deal

The Chicago Cubs and free-agent infielder Ben Zobrist have agreed to a four-year contract.

A person familiar with the negotiations says the contract is worth $56 million.

Zobrist, 34, was an important spark for the Kansas City Royals in their run to the World Series title.

Later Tuesday, the Cubs traded infielder Starlin Castro to the New York Yankees for right-hander Adam Warren and a player to be named. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Chapman assault charges dropped

Police say there was "insufficient evidence" to charge Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman in a domestic disturbance incident between the pitcher and his girlfriend at his South Florida home, and they've closed the investigation.

But the matter appears to have put on hold a proposed trade sending Chapman, a four-time all-star to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Aroldis Chapman GETTY IMAGES

Joe Torre, MLB's chief baseball officer, said Tuesday that there is no timetable in making a decision on Chapman's status under the league's new domestic violence policy. He said the league first learned of the incident late Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ronaldo racks up record

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Star becomes first player to net 10 goals in group stage

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 10 goals or more in the group stage of the Champions League, claiming four as Real Madrid routed Malmo 8-0 on Tuesday in Madrid.

Ronaldo reached 11 goals in six games, surpassing the nine scored by Luiz Adriano with Shakhtar Donetsk last season. Ronaldo also scored nine times in the 2013-14 season group stage.

Ronaldo also set up two goals by Karim Benzema, who scored a hat trick.

Mateo Kovacic rounded out the scoring.

Madrid secured the biggest margin of victory in the Champions League since Liverpool defeated Besiktas also by 8-0 in 2007.

The game meant little for Madrid because it had already secured first place in Group A, but the convincing victory helped ease the pressure on coach Rafa Benitez and president Florentino Perez. Fans were still angry at the demoralizing 4-0 home loss to Barcelona in the Spanish league and disqualification from the Copa del Rey because of an ineligible player.

"We are very satisfied and happy for all of the Madrid fans who didn't lose faith in this team," said Benitez, who was in command of Liverpool when it routed Besiktas in 2007.

"This is football, things change week after week. It's important for us to keep winning."

Meanwhile, Ronaldo's former club Manchester United was relegated to the Europa League after getting beat 3-2 by Wolfsburg, as the German side advanced to the round of 16 for the first time.

The loss, coupled with PSV Eindhoven's 2-1 home victory over CSKA Moscow, dropped United to third place in Group B.

Wolfsburg won the group and PSV also advanced.

Atletico Madrid won Group C by beating Benfica 2-1 to leapfrog the Portuguese host, which took second.

In Group D, Manchester City scored three late goals in a five-minute span to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-2 and finish top for the first time. Juventus, last season's runner-up, wasted a chance to finish first with a 1-0 loss at Sevilla, although still advanced.

The other four groups wrap up play Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo, top, scored four goals on Tuesday. DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUESDAY Group A

MADRID	MALMO
8	0

FIFA SCANDAL

Platini pledges to tell 'only the truth' in appeal

Michel Platini arrived at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Tuesday pledging to "tell the truth, only the truth" as he appeals against a 90-day FIFA ban.

The suspended UEFA president wants CAS to freeze his ban by Friday, allowing him to resume campaigning for the FIFA presidency ahead of the Feb. 26 election. It would also allow him to attend the 2016 European Championship draw on Saturday in Paris.

Michel Platini GETTY IMAGES

Platini and Blatter face possible life bans centred on the payment and timing of the $2 million that Blatter approved for Platini in 2011 as backdated salary.

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RECIPE Turkey and Sweet Potato Skillet

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The holidays are upon us but we can't survive on cookies alone. You're going to need the balance of some simple, healthy recipes. This one comes together in a snap.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 Tsps chili powder
- 1 1/2 cups yellow pepper, diced
- 1 1/2 cups sweet potato, peeled and diced
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup mozzarella, grated

Directions
1. In a large, oven-safe skillet, pour in oil, then brown your turkey over medium heat, breaking it up with the back of a spoon. Cook for about 5 minutes. Add the onions and garlic and cook for another 5 minutes until they are fragrant and begin to soften. Sprinkle the chili powder over top and stir.
2. Add the yellow pepper and allow it to soften for another 3 minutes or so. Stir in the sweet potatoes, cover and cook for about 10 minutes. Stir occasionally and add a bit of water if things dry out. Check to see that sweet potatoes are tender. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Sprinkle grated cheese.
4. Turn broiler on. Place the skillet under the heat for a minute or two until the cheese melts and just starts to brown. Remove carefully from the oven and serve.

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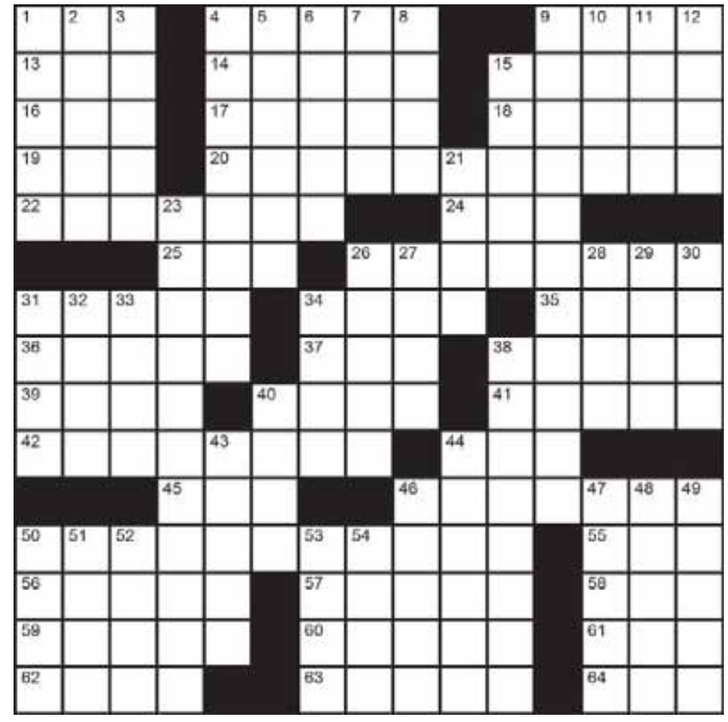
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Enjoyed the bench
4. Window material
9. Pear part
13. French vineyard
14. Montreal-based jazz vocalist Ms. Lee
15. Take care of, as arrangements: 2 wds.
16. Comedian Mr. James
17. Separated
18. "_ _ done now!" (Finished ...finally!)
19. Saguenay sidekick
20. Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, _-_ Mark A.G. Norman
22. Industrial Revolution creation
24. Standoff site in Quebec, 1990
25. "Growing Pains" Canadian star ...his initials-sharers
26. New Brunswick town on Chaleur Bay
31. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
34. Small horse
35. Sea lettuce
36. Winnebago owners, informally
37. Bonnet or derby
38. Stable tresses
39. Vintner's prefix
40. Salad or stirfry ingredient
41. Show anchored by Ben Mulroney
42. Internet Explorer, and others
44. Ms. MacGraw
45. "_-Devil" (1989)
46. Cloudiness
50. Late night host who does a Neil Young impression: 2 wds.
55. Me: French
56. Benefit
57. Prefix to 'graphy' (Fancy writing)
58. Men's deodorant brand
59. Immense-ish
60. Functional
61. Mr. Bellows
62. Looped cross
63. Mischa Barton series: wd. + letters
64. Conclusion

DOWN
1. "Beat it!"
2. Wonderful whiff
3. Gladiator's garment
4. Solemnity
5. Rabbits, in Rimouski
6. Has _ _ up one's sleeve
7. Desert-like
8. _ _ good example
9. Beaver = _ rodent
10. Rupture
11. French: Ici _ _ (Here and there)
12. _ Flanders (1722 Daniel Defoe book)
15. Latka's beloved on "Taxi"
21. "Finding Nemo" (2003) character
23. Big name in Canadian almanacs
26. Rake over the _
27. Poker stake
28. Arm bone
29. Mr. Knievel
30. Chore
31. "No _!" (Happy to oblige)
32. Best _ (Greatest)
33. _ _'clock (Coffee break time)
34. "_ Lap" (1983)
38. _ _ (Bryan Adams duettist on "When You're Gone")
40. Rolling Stones guitarist Mr. Richards, affectionately to fans
43. Demurely
44. Mr. Creed (Rocky's opponent in the fight of his career)
46. "Kukla, Fran and _"
47. Picture
48. Poison
49. Give way
50. Morning swig
51. Tennis great Mr. Lendl
52. Conceal
53. _ _ above the rest (Better than)
54. Wood strip

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today the important things in life, such as love and family, will come into focus and the not-so-important things, such as money and ambition, will be seen for the illusions they are.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will gain more in the long run if you help others as well as yourself. A good deed done now will pay off later, so act only in ways that bring smiles to other people's faces.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You could come into money this week, but you may sabotage the situation if you get suspicious and wonder what people's motives are. They are not trying to trick you, they are trying to help.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will meet someone who attracts you today and while there may be nothing outwardly special about them on an inner level you just seem to fit together. Are you soul mates? Maybe, maybe not, but you are certainly on the same wavelength.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Try not to make promises that you may have to break. Make no promises at all. If you feel that you must at the very least add a get-out clause.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get deeply involved in a cause that is close to your heart. It is not enough just to make a donation or cheer from afar, you have got to get personal. Roll up your sleeves.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do more for yourself. Find ways to cut back on your commitments without making it seem as if you are abandoning friends and loved ones.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Relationships will go well today. There is something of the celebrity about you at the moment — heads turn in your direction wherever you go. Where did your star quality come from? Who knows, but don't waste it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to avoid people who always seem to be talking you down. If you want to feel good about yourself spend time with those who like you for who you are, not some impossible ideal of who you should be.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make it your business to make other people feel good. Not only will it cheer them up but it will cheer you up as well. The more you mix with strangers the more alive you will feel.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today's Sun-Uranus link means you are at your best and almost anything you turn your hand to will work out well. Make sure people in positions of power know who you are and what you can do.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be eager to prove yourself but be selective. Don't spread yourself too thin. Focus on what means most to you and aim to be the best at it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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9							5	1
8	3							6
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